FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Near East & South Asia

Vol V No 160 *19 August 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 August Middle East and South Asia Review ..... AA 1

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PLO Sends Message to USSR Foreign Minister *[Algiers VOP]* ..... DD 1
'Arafat Appeals for Lifting Siege on Lebanese Camps *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... DD 1
'Arafat Concludes Algeria Visit, Arrives in Tunis *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... DD 1
Military Spokesman on 'Aggressions' Against Camps *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... DD 1

CHAD

FANT Downs Libyan Plane, Helicopter 17 Aug ..... B 1
Ex-GUNT Chief Goukouni Threatens Armed Struggle *[Paris LIBERATION 13 Aug]* ..... B 1
Original Frolinat Ceases To Exist as Opposition *[AFP]* ..... B 1

EGYPT

Saudi King Praises Mubarak's Achievements *[AL-AHRAM 17 Aug]* ..... C 1
Ministers Address Expatriates Conference ..... C 1
'Abd al-Majid on Mideast Issues ..... C 1
Abu Ghazalah on Military Issues ..... C 2
Al-Janzuri Returns From FRG Following Talks ..... C 3
Israeli Knesset Member Arrives for Talks 16 Aug ..... C 3
Departs 19 Aug ..... C 3

SUDAN

Al-Mirghani Supports Libya's Right to Aozou ..... G 1
Government, SPLA Clashes Reported in South ..... G 1
600 Wau Civilians Killed *[SPLA Radio]* ..... G 1
Civilians Urged To Evacuate *[SPLA Radio]* ..... G 1
SPLA Reports Battle Successes ..... G 1
Rebel Activity in Kordofan Reportedly 'Contained' ..... G 2
Burmah Views Situation ..... G 2
Al-Mahdi Urges Political Solution to South ..... G 2
SUNA Cites SPLM Spokesman on Peace Option ..... G 3
Two Sudanese Army Colonels Defect to SPLM-SPLA *[SPLA Radio]* ..... G 3

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Denounces Morocco's Military Policy *[APS]* ..... I 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

INTER-GULF AFFAIRS

Gunboats Attack Liberian Tanker in Gulf of Oman *[Monte Carlo]* ..... J 1
Tanker Continues Voyage *[Monte Carlo]* ..... J 1
Extent of Damage Described *[WAKH]* ..... J 1

BAHRAIN

Iranian Charge Seeks Criticism of Mecca 'Carnage' *[IRNA]* ..... J 1
Foreign Minister Given Message From Iraq's 'Aziz ..... J 1

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister, PDRY Counterpart Discuss Region ..... J 1
Official Returns From PDRY, Sudan Visits ..... J 2
Prime Minister Receives Diplomats Back From Iran ..... J 2

PDRY

Iranian Envoy Briefs President on Mecca Events *[IRNA]* ..... J 2
Kuwaiti Ministry Official Meets With President *[KUNA]* ..... J 3

SAUDI ARABIA

SPA Views Tehran's Claims on Treatment of Pilgrims ..... J 3
King Fahd Receives Sudanese Officials 18 Aug ..... J 4
Crown Prince Receives Al-Banna ..... J 4
Defense Minister Meets Guests ..... J 4

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Security Source States No Mines Found in Waters *[WAKH]* ..... J 4

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Foreign Minister Given Message From Iraq's 'Aziz *[INA]* ..... J 4
Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Received 18 Aug *[Tehran]* ..... J 4

IRAQ

Joint Oil Pipeline With Turkey To Be Inaugurated ..... K 1
Reportage on Gulf War Operations Continues ..... K 1
Iran's Sinking of Ships Denied ..... K 1
Claims on Al-'Amadiyah Denied ..... K 1
Iran Warned Against Striking Civilian Targets ..... K 1
Iranian Opposition Reports Further Successes ..... K 1

ISRAEL

Peres on Meeting Shevardnadze, Lavi Decision ..... L 1
Peres Aide on Making Soviet Meetings 'Routine' ..... L 1
IAI Notes 'No Chance' of $200 Million Lavi Cut *[THE JERUSALEM POST 19 Aug]* ..... L 1
Molotov Cocktail Thrown Near Al-Duhayshah Camp ..... L 2
Demolition of Bedouin Mosque in Negev Ordered ..... L 2
Syrian Settlements on Golan Heights Examined *[HA'ARETZ 18 Aug]* ..... L 2

JORDAN

Al-Rifa'i Reports 'Punctual' Receipt of Saudi Aid ..... M 1
Al-Rifa'i To Visit Syria To Discuss Dam Project *[Monte Carlo]* ..... M 1
Omani Official Arrives With Message for King ..... M 1
Received by King Husayn ..... M 1
AL-DUSTUR Criticizes Shamir's Visit to Romania *[18 Aug]* ..... M 1

LEBANON

Iranian Delegation Tries To Ease Tension in South *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... N 1
Al-Jumayyil Signs Law on Additional Defense Funds *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Lebanese Front Pledges Efforts for New Government *[RFL]* ..... N 1
Israeli Jets Drop Flares on Camps in 'Mock Raid' *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Resistance Operations Reported Against Israelis *[VONR]* ..... N 1

SYRIA

Glass Abductors Reportedly 'Facilitated' Escape *[Monte Carlo]* ..... O 1
Vernon Walters Thanks Al-Asad ..... O 1
Al-Asad, UAE President Hold Closed Meeting ..... O 1
Soviet Trade Delegation Arrives for Damascus Fair ..... O 1
Hungarian Delegation Arrives ..... O 1
Soviet Party Delegation Arrives in Damascus 17 Aug ..... O 1

AFGHANISTAN

Najib, Ministers Mark Army Day in Kabul ..... P 1
PDPA Central Committee Issues Message on Army Day ..... P 1
Leadership Cables Greetings to USSR Officials ..... P 2
PDPA Politburo Releases Party Members for Poor Work ..... P 2
Mujahidin Kill 25 Soviets in Loghar Province *[IRNA]* ..... P 3

BANGLADESH

Local Tribal Leaders Sign Accord With Officials *[AFP]* ..... Q 1
Radio Commentary Views Tribal Refugees Issue ..... Q 1

INDIA

President, Parliament Comment on Colombo Bombing ..... R 1
Minister Bars Resumption of Popular Rule in Punjab ..... R 1
Terrorists Ambush Police Party in Punjab ..... R 1
8 Killed in Terrorist Attack, Blast in Punjab ..... R 1
Congress-I Vice Presidential Candidate Nominated ..... R 1
Article Advocates 'Simla Agreement' With PRC *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 31 Jul]* ..... R 1
STATESMAN Says U.S. Aid To Pakistan in Jeopardy *[6 Aug]* ..... R 3

IRAN

Attack on Liberian Tanker Called 'Suspicious' ..... S 1
Minesweepers Warn Foreign Vessels To Keep Distance ..... S 1
Karrubi Returns From Saudi Arabia 18 Aug ..... S 1
Comments on Return ..... S 1
Kamal Kharrazi Interviewed by DER SPIEGEL *[17 Aug]* ..... S 2
Britain To 'Investigate' Muslim Community ..... S 6
Radio Analyzes Soviet Policy in Gulf Region ..... S 6
Cabinet Hears Report on Velayati's Oman Visit ..... S 8
Heroin, Opium, Hashish Seized; 109 Arrested ..... S 8
Tehran Commentary on Islamic Banking System ..... S 8
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue ..... S 9
Iraq Warned of Imminent Attack ..... S 9
Attacks on Iraqi Installations ..... S 9
Communique No 2,932 ..... S 9
4 Iraqi Gunboats Sunk ..... S 10

PAKISTAN

Ziaul Haq on Afghanistan, India, Domestic Issues ..... V 1
[Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS 13 Aug]

SRI LANKA

Further Reportage on Grenade Attack in Parliament ..... W 1
Parliament Staffer Questioned ..... W 1
Caller Claims Responsibility *[BBC]* ..... W 1
Cabinet Meets To Discuss Accord *[BBC]* ..... W 1
Police Detain 5 Persons *[Delhi]* ..... W 1

19 August Middle East and South Asia Review

LD191317 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

The Liberian-registered container ship *Osco Sierra* was attacked in the Gulf of Oman by two speedboats, according to a Lloyds report cited by Radio Monte Carlo. "Responsible maritime sources" at Al-Fujayrah reported that the ship suffered minor damage to one of its portholes, WAKH noted. In remarks cited by Tehran radio, an Iranian military spokesman termed the attack "a suspicious movement aimed at creating tension" and reiterated Iran's pledge to refrain from "retaliatory measures" as long as Iraq does not attack ships.

In action on the battlefronts, Iraqi warplanes struck "devastating blows" against "economic and vital facilities" in Khuzestan, including the Marun oil field, the Gachsaran oil fields Nos 2 and 3, and the Ramin power plant, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced.

For Iran's part, IRNA announced 19 August that "military and economic centers" near Al-Basrah, Zubayr, Abu al-Khasib, and Umm Qasr were shelled in retaliation for Iraqi raids that "took a heavy civilian toll." According to Tehran radio, coastal artillery fire sank four Iraqi gunboats near the the entrance to Khawr 'Abdallah and heavily damaged a frigate near Umm Qasr. However, Iraq said the "allegations are far from the truth," INA reported.

A statement issued by the War Information Headquarters and reported by Tehran radio had warned Iraqi citizens to evacuate the area around potential industrial targets. A military spokesman cited by the radio also accused Iraq of recently bombing villages near Sardasht, Ahvaz, and Mehran in preparation for a resumption of the "war of the cities." An Iraqi military spokesman denounced Iran's "false claims" and warned that "Iraq's patience is not inexhaustible," INA reported. The spokesman also denied the Iranian "fabrication" that a battle occurred in the Al-'Amadiyah area.

Libya

Chadian forces near Aozou shot down a Libyan warplane and a helicopter 17 August, a communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio announced.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, JANA reported.

Lebanon

Israeli aircraft dropped flares during a "mock raid" over Sidon, Voice of Lebanon reported, noting that some fires were caused in the Al-Miyah Wa al-Miyah camp. In Ba'labakk, a "number" of people were killed and wounded when rockets were fired on buildings used by Iranian "revolutionary guards," the radio also reported.

Israel

In an interview from Bucharest carried on Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir termed his talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu "cordial and friendly." According to Shamir, Ceausescu believes that "various Arab elements" are "very close to the realization that the Israeli reality should be accepted as it is." Ceausescu is "confident" a peaceful solutions to the region's problems can be found, the prime minister stated.

Afghanistan

An explosion in a "rebel-held market town" some 40 km from Jalalabad 14 August killed 17 people and wounded 20 others, according to a report from the *Afghan Islamic Agency* cited by AFP. The guerrillas accused "government agents" of planting the bomb and retaliated by killing several government soldiers during an attack on a nearby army outpost, the agency added.

Turkey

Twenty-five people were killed when "terrorists" attacked a village near Eruh in the southeast, Ankara radio reported, adding that Interior Minister Yildirim Akbulut traveled to the scene from Diyarbakir.

PLO Sends Message to USSR Foreign Minister

LD181757 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Abu al-Luft [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO's political department, has sent a written message to the Soviet foreign minister. The message was conveyed by the PLO charge d'affaires in Moscow during his meeting with a number of officials at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

It has been learned from PLO sources in Moscow that the message concerns developments in the Palestinian issue and the efforts being made to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

These sources stressed that the brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, will soon pay an official visit to the Soviet Union.

'Arafat Appeals for Lifting Siege on Lebanese Camps

JN171948 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Aug 87

["Text" of speech delivered by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the graduation ceremony of Palestinian Cubs in Oran on 16 August — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] O brother strugglers here in the land of revolution and revolutionaries, the land of Algeria, the land of free people, the land of 1.5 million martyrs. In your name — you, the flowers of Palestine and the cubs of Palestine — we extend our heartfelt greetings to our brothers, the free revolutionaries in Algeria. We also greet our brother strugglers who have proved to the entire world that this Arab land, the land of revolutionaries, will remain Arab, Arab, and Arab. [passage omitted]

Yes, revolution until victory. I say this to those who are besieged in the Shatila, Sabra, Burj al-Barajinah, and Al-Rashidiyah camps, as well as in any other surrounded camp. I say to them: We vow to continue the revolution. I address those of you who are besieged in these camps. I appeal to the Arab leaders to help lift the siege of these camps. I appeal to my brother President Chadli Bendjedid to exert efforts to lift the siege of these camps. I also appeal to President Al-Asad, and I say to him that these camps are Arab and the siege should be lifted. I tell him this at a time when the Israeli enemy and Rabin's agents are issuing threats and are increasing their mad raids on us within these camps and in southern Lebanon.

The enemy is launching air, naval, and commando raids; it is also concentrating its troops. It says that it wants to deal a blow to the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese liberation movement. It also says that it will deal a blow to the Syrian Army if it interferes. I say that we will fight the enemy just as we did in 1982. We will fight you as long as you commit aggression against our ally, the fraternal Lebanese people. We will also fight you if you attack the Syrian Army. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Concludes Algeria Visit, Arrives in Tunis

JN171914 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Tunis from Algiers last night after a visit to Algeria that lasted several days. During his stay in Algiers, Abu 'Ammar held talks with Algerian Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi on developments in the Palestine question. They also discussed the continuous air and naval raids on the Palestinian people's camps in Lebanon and the escalation of the ironfisted policy inside the occupied homeland. Furthermore, they reviewed a number of issues of mutual interest in the Arab and international arenas.

Military Spokesman on 'Aggressions' Against Camps

JN192112 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Communiques issued by PLO military spokesman; date and place not given]

[Text] First: The Zionist enemy is mobilizing its troops in northern Palestine and the border strip area to launch more attacks on the camps of our steadfast people in southern Lebanon. As this happens, the Amal gangs have been aiming artillery shelling and machinegun fire against the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps. They have been doing so from their positions around the two camps since 15 August 1987. Many civilians have been wounded. At the same time, these gangs have opened fire at the industrial zone and the Tanburit-al-Ghaziyah area. These gangs have also continued to direct sporadic fire at the camps during the night despite extensive efforts by Sidon officials. The criminal aggressions by these gangs continue. The Zionist enemy is still launching aggressions against the camps of our steadfast people in southern Lebanon. The siege of our camps in Beirut by the Amal gangs and their supporters also continues. These events indicate that these gangs are involved in the U.S.-Zionist plan to divide Lebanon into small sectarian states in order to balkanize the Arab region.

Second: The enemy's military command has carried out a dangerous military escalation against our people and camps in southern Lebanon. As part of this escalation, the enemy's gunboats shelled residential areas in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps at 2300 on 14 August 1987. Several people were wounded. At the same time, the enemy's warplanes flew over the area and dropped flares. The enemy Air Force and Navy continue these criminal aggressions against our camps in southern Lebanon. The Amal gangs also continue their aggressions and provocations against our people's camps in southern Lebanon and Beirut. These aggressions are part of the U.S.-Zionist plan to divide Lebanon, set up a small sectarian state, and balkanize the Arab region. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. Revolution until victory.

FANT Downs Libyan Plane, Helicopter 17 Aug
AB181927 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1907 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Communique No 73 issued by the FANT High Command in Ndjamena on 18 August]

[Text] The Libyan Air Force, which has not stopped its savage and blind bombings of the martyred liberated town of Aozou, has just suffered a bitter defeat at the hands of the valiant FANT.

Yesterday afternoon, 17 August 1987, a MIG fighter aircraft and a combat helicopter were shot down over the town of Aozou.

The Libyans are warned that their bombings of our towns will not go unpunished.

Ex-GUNT Chief Goukouni Threatens Armed Struggle
PM181006 Paris LIBERATION in French 13 Aug 87 p 12

[Report on telephone interview with former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei by Pierre Haski; date and place not given]

[Text] Goukouni Oueddei is angry and, at the height of the Aozou crisis, has threatened to resume his armed struggle against President Hissein Habre's regime.

The former GUNT president, who broke with his Libyan allies last year, does not appreciate either the latest offensive by government troops — which has enabled them to recapture the Aozou palm grove — or Monday's ministerial reshuffle in which several oppositionists were coopted into the government.

In a telephone interview granted to *Liberation*, Oueddei, who is living in exile in Algiers, strongly criticized the Chadian president's decisions. "We have an internal problem to resolve. We have started settling it over the last 6 months. We should have joined forces and made Libya accept arbitration on the Aozou Strip. If Libya refused to do this, the united Chadian forces could have faced up to the Libyan intransigence. Instead of giving priority to the internal conflict, Habre has acted hastily and opted for a fait accompli. I cannot support the crime he has just committed."

Oueddei, son of the former Derdei, a traditional chief of the Toubou tribe of Tibesti — the region where Aozou is situated — does not condemn Hissein Habre for attacking the Libyans in the Aozou Strip, but "the way in which he did it leads me to condemn his action."

After endless negotiations in Algiers with a Ndjamena Government delegation, relations between Oueddei and Habre seem to be on the point of a complete break.

The former GUNT president attributes this crisis to "Hissein Habre's intransigence."

In reply to the latter, who accused him in a speech last week of trying to "destroy" Chad, Oueddei stated: "I have never had thoughts of destruction. I have proposed a definitive peace settlement for our country. I have raised fundamental questions — the reorganization of the Army, the dissolution of the National Union for Independence and Revolution (the single party — *Liberation* editor's note) to unite all Chadian political forces ...This does not mean destruction. Hissein Habre is only supported by his close relatives."

Monday's reshuffle — which brought into the government Colonel Kamougue, former GUNT vice president, and Colonel Kotiga, former chief of the southern dissidents — "will not solve the problems."

"Taking particular individuals into the government makes matters worse. It is important to deal with the root of the problem."

What can Oueddei do in view of the fact that his men have already been integrated into the FANT and have taken part in fighting against the Libyans? "The only thing left between us and Ndjamena is confrontation," he stated in a threatening manner, recalling that in 1982, when Habre hounded him out of the government, he no longer had an army either..."If I adopt firm positions, I am sure of achieving practical results..."

Last October Ouddei's supporters signed a military agreement with Habre's representatives, which heralded their integration into the FANT and which was to be followed by a political agreement. At that time Oueddei was in Tripoli, wounded and held prisoner by the Libyans.

Subsequently exiled in Algiers, the former GUNT chief began talks with Mahamat Itno, Chadian interior minister, but so far they have failed to overcome their differences.

Ouddei's men are still in the FANT and some of them have even attained positions of responsibility. It remains to be seen whether they would follow orders from their former leader to desert the FANT.

Moreover, Oueddei refused to say anything about a new alliance with Libya which would be vital if he were to revive his struggle. "You must not put the cart before the horse," Oueddei told me enigmatically. There is, however, no doubt that the Toubou leader has not severed all his ties with Tripoli, whose envoys were present in Algiers throughout the negotiations. Many of Oueddei's supporters and family members are still in Libya.

In addition, Libya still supports the "neo-GUNT" led by Acheikh ibn Omar, which has not played any role in the events of the past few months but which might well be revived by the Libyans if Oueddei acts on his threats.

The quarrel between Hissein Habre and his main rival, which is at present only a verbal threat, is casting even more doubt on peace prospects in Chad.

Original Frolinat Ceases To Exist as Opposition
AB181705 Paris AFP in French 1558 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, 18 Aug (AFP) — The Original Frolinat (Chadian National Liberation Front, an opposition movement) has ceased

to be an external opposition movement, its leader Abdelkader Yacine affirmed on 18 August in Paris.

In a statement delivered to AFP, Mr Yacine expressed the belief that the Chadian situation requires "a real national outburst" to "liberate the territory" and save the country from "disintegration."

"This is why," the statement continued, "the Original Frolinat has decided to put an end to its existence as an external opposition movement" and to "work for the return of peace and stability in Chad and for the defense of territorial integrity and national sovereignty."

Finally, Mr Yacine thanked Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party for their "efforts favoring the reconciliation of Chad's children" and for the return of the Original Frolinat into the great (Chadian) family."

Goukouni Oueddei, president of the GUNT (of which the Original Frolinat was a component faction) paid a visit to Iraq early this month.

Saudi King Praises Mubarak's Achievements

NC170745 Cairo MENA in English 2215 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, Aug 16 (MENA) — Tomorrow's *Al-Ahram* is quoting King Fahd of Saudi Arabia as making an exclusive statement to it to the effect that events have always proved that the Egyptian-Saudi relations, which are historic and pan-Arab, are not affected by occasional incidents and altering circumstances.

The heavily headlined front-page item, further quoting the Saudi monarch on development of the relations between Saudi Arabia and Egypt, says:

— Our familiarity with brother President Husni Mubarak dates back to long past years.

— I knew him when he was air force commander and then as vice-president.

— Our ties with him then grew along with esteem for him after he took over as president of the Arab Republic of Egypt through our constant follow-up of the many achievements he made for Egypt and its people at various levels, in addition to his good contribution and efforts towards serving the Arab and Islamic causes.

King Fahd is still reported by *Al-Ahram* as saying:

— We have known his excellency President Mubarak as being moderate and balanced in all his words and deeds.

— We have also known him as being sincere in what he says, frank in airing opinion and far-sighted in his decisions.

Undoubtedly, these are the qualities which make him the man qualified to continue his leadership of Egypt in most critical circumstances necessitating the need for him.

— In opinion, the Egyptian people, which came out unanimously through its (People's) Assembly several days ago in favour of re-electing President Mubarak for a second tenure, was undoubtedly expressing its full confidence in the person of his excellency.

In his reported concluding remarks, King Fahd prayed God for attainment at the hands of President Mubarak of further welfare, prosperity and stability for Egypt and its faithful people.

Ministers Address Expatriates Conference

'Abd al-Majid on Mideast Issues

NC161803 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized his ministry's concern to take care of Egyptians working abroad and to link them to their native homeland. He noted that instructions have been sent to all Egyptian embassies and consulates in various countries to stand by every Egyptian abroad. These concerns were contained in a speech delivered by 'Abd al-Majid to the Committee Taking Care of Egyptians Abroad, which the fourth general conference of Egyptian expatriates established during a meeting at Cairo University this morning.

Following the speech, a dialogue ensued between 'Abd al-Majid and Egyptian expatriates, who put forward a number of questions. Asked what course of action Egypt would take should Israel refuse to implement the resolution of arbitrators dealing with the Tabah problem, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt would take a stand that is first and foremost consistent with its interests, particularly since documents support and corroborate Egypt's position. He disclosed that attempts are being made to settle the issue outside the arbitration framework. He asserted: We will not adopt a position until a careful study has been made, nor will we do so until the national committee on Tabah has become completely aware of all of Egypt's interests. He affirmed that Tabah is Egyptian territory and will return to Egypt. The foreign minister further stressed that the parties had agreed to submit the issue to arbitration and that the arbitrators' decision is binding.

Responding to a question on Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries, 'Abd al-Majid said that there had been differences with the Soviet Union in the past, but that this was no longer the case. He noted that current relations with that country are based upon mutual respect and common interests. He acknowledged that the Soviet Union is a superpower, but emphasized that Egypt continues to make decisions independently on the basis ofits own interests.

Commenting on Egyptian-Iraqi relations, 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt neither pursues anyone nor seeks to reestablish relations with Arab countries. We were not the first to sever these ties,he emphasized. Although the Arab countries are our friends and we maintain amicable relations, Egypt must maintain its dignity and pride. He said that if it wishes, Iraq can reestablish diplomatic relations with Egypt. Dr Abd al-Majid affirmed that Egypt welcomes the resumption of relations with Arab countries, but reiterated that it will not run after anyone. He noted that certain countries had reestablished relations with Egypt of their own free will, pointing out that Jordan resumed relations with Egypt in 1984 as did Djibouti later on.

With regard to Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Sudan is a friendly country. As for recent statements about the joint defense agreement, 'Abd al-Majid said that this agreement only deals with an actual act of aggression directed against either country. It does not in any way interfere in domestic affairs, the foreign minister added, asserting that we leave our brothers in Sudan to deal with their own affairs. He revealed that President Mubarak has expressed concern that peace should prevail in Sudan. The foreign minister noted in this regard that the president is acting on various levels with the aim of bringing the views of Sudan and its neighbors closer together in order to end the problem which is exhausting Sudan in the south. He added: We will always join hands with the Sudanese people.

Commenting on Egypt's strategy toward Israel, 'Abd al-Majid said that following Egypt's victory in the 1973 October war, the

equation that had dominated the region since the 1967 defeat was changed. He noted that Egypt had entered the negotiations from a position of strength. He recalled that those negotiations had resulted in liberation and the return of the Sinai. The Palestinian problem, however, remains unresolved. Egypt has continued to struggle to solve this problem through Camp David-style negotiations. The Camp David agreement simply provided for solving the problem incrementally with the ultimate aim of allowing the Palestinians to determine their future 5 years after 1979. He said: We differed with Israel over the autonomy issue and the negotiations have been suspended as a consequence. We also differed with certain Arab countries. The Camp David agreement contains an explicit clause that mentions "the Palestinian people's legitimate rights" for the first time. By signing this agreement, Israel recognized the Palestinian people and their claim to legitimate rights for the first time.

As to differences with Arab countries, 'Abd al-Majid said: We have reached a deadlock with them; these countries have done nothing. Despite this, Egypt has not spared any effort to solve the Palestinian issue. He noted that an international conference is now being proposed as a suitable framework in which all sides can find a solution.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid maintained that the United States and Israel had originally stated their opposition to the idea of convening an international conference. Following its agreement with Israel over the Tabah arbitral compromis, however, Egypt managed to get Israel's approval, through Shim'on Peres, for the idea. This means that the solution of the Palestinian problem could be worked out within the framework of an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that the Palestinians should themselves choose their representatives to the conference as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. He added: We can now say that the convocation of an international conference is an accepted idea throughout the world, including in Israel, which previously had insisted on direct negotiations.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that Egypt had not and will not abandon the Palestinian issue. Egypt considers this issue to be a trust, because the Palestinian people should enjoy their own rights. The foreign minister added that Egypt condemns and rejects any Israeli practices which it considers to be wrong.

Responding to a question about the possibility of peace in the Middle East, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stated that the Arab world has a responsibility toward bringing peace to the region. The Arab states should understand that they have a role to play. Egypt, Dr 'Abd al-Majid recalled, waged wars and pursued peace as part of its role in the region. The Arab states should understand the real situation. He noted that there is a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Egypt will continue to honor its commitments as stipulated in the treaty as long as Israel does the same. He said: We are not warmongers; however, we will neither accept aggression nor any harm to our rights and dignity. Egypt will respect its commitments as long as the other side continues to do so. Our reply to any violation will be twice as severe. Egypt is a major state in the region and carries a lot of weight. Furthermore, the Arab states should bear their responsibilities.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister continued by noting that Egypt is making every effort to establish peace. However, there are times when Egypt is unable to control certain situations with regard to the international conference. Nevertheless, Egypt insists upon its stands and reiterates that it will not cede its rights.

Asked if Israel will reject the outcome of arbitration concerning Tabah, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid replied: Needless to say, the acceptance of the arbitral compromis meant a commitment to accept the arbitration and its outcome. If Israel breaches its commitments, it will have to bear the consequences.

Asked whether Egypt has dispatched troops to Kuwait to protect it against Iranian threats, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stated that there are no Egyptian troops stationed outside Egypt.

Reponding to a question on Egyptian prisoners in Iran, the foreign minister said that this is an important issue which is receiving our utmost attention. He added that the Foreign Ministry is looking into the issue with the help of the Red Cross. Upon Egypt's request, the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva contacted the Iranian Government for information on this issue. Unfortunately, that government did not respond to the Red Cross request. However, Dr 'Abd al-Majid added, Egypt is closely following up on this issue in order to work out a solution.

Abu Ghazalah on Military Issues

NC171840 Cairo MENA in English 1640 GMT 17 Aug

[Text] Cairo, Aug. 17 (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy premier and minister of defence and military production, said today the Egyptian Armed Forces is being modernized to cope with the progress being witnessed worldwide and to be capable of repulsing any aggressions against our borders.

Replying to a question raised by Egyptian expatriates currently meeting at Cairo University, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the Armed Forces is now better than the case during the October war as regards armament, training, fighting readiness and morale of the forces.

He pointed out that the five-year plan 1987/1993 is to realize self-sufficiency in the manufacture of different arms to avoid foreign pressures.

He pointed to the depth of the Egyptian-Sudanese relations, noting that the agreement on mutual defence between the two countries is of interest to Sudan, noting that the problem of [words indistinct] one that could be resolved by Sudanese officials. Egypt has never been late in supporting Sudan particularly to help it defend its borders against any aggression he said, noting that Egypt will never cancel the Mutual Defence Agreement.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah told the Egyptian expatriates that if Egypt and Sudan cooperate they would realize a solution to the problem of food for both of them and for the Arab countries.

He further said Egypt benefits a great deal of [as received] the manoeuvres with the U.S. forces. The American force to these manoeuvres does not exceed two battalions, while plans and evaluation of performance are being made by Egyptian commanders and nothing at all touches the Egyptian dignity.

The Egyptian force in Sinai is currently more than its size during the war time and is capable of confronting any attack against Sinai, Abu Ghazalah said, noting that the police force in Sinai substitutes the borderline guards.

As regards the Gulf war, Abu Ghazalah pointed out that it is a state of no war no peace as both parties to this conflict, Iraq and Iran, could not win this war, while the outside and the Arab world are interested in the continuation of such a crisis.

Iran has the human supremacy, while Iraq has supremacy in arms Abu Ghazalah said.

There are four probabilities of the Gulf war, Abu Ghazalah said. The first is the victory of Iran over Iraq in case Iran realizes a balance in armament. If so, there will be a collapse in the Gulf states that may reach Saudi Arabia.

In case this assumption came out, it will pose a threat to the Egyptian military, national and economic security due to the presence of big numbers of Egyptians working in this area and it will also pose threats to the security of the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

The second probability, Abu Ghazalah went to say, is the victory of Iraq, the third is the continuation of war, and the fourth and last one [words indistinct] of the war, imposed by the super powers due to menacing threats to their interests.

As for war production and armament, Abu Ghazalah said that we have the most up to date multi-purpose American-made F-16 jet fighter and the French-made Mirage-2000.

The Armed Forces, Marshal Abu Ghazalah added, manufactured all kinds of artillery, ammunitions, vision sets and armoured vehicles. He extended an invitation to the expatriates to visit the military firms.

On joint drills, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that these drills are scheduled every two years. Welcoming joint wargames with any Arab or foreign coutnry, Abu Ghazalah said they are most useful in terms of dealing with world technology and modern weaponry.

Al-Janzuri Returns From FRG Following Talks

NC181836 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA) — Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation, returned to Cairo this evening following a 12-day visit to the FRG. During his stay, Dr al-Janzuri held discussions with FRG officials on bilateral economic cooperation. He disclosed that he and Hans Klein, FRG minister of economic cooperation, had examined ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation and of increasing Egyptian exports to the FRG. [passage omitted]

Israeli Knesset Member Arrives for Talks 16 Aug

NC162010 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA) — Zaydan 'Atshah, Israeli Knesset member of Arab origin, arrived in Cairo from Tel Aviv this evening on a 4-day visit during which he will hold talks with Egyptian officials. 'Atshah was received at the airport by Ahmad Faruq, an official from the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department.

Departs 19 Aug

NC190952 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0909 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA) — Israeli Knesset member Zaydan 'Atshah left Cairo for Tel Aviv this morning, concluding a 4-day visit. 'Atshah arrived in Cairo last Sunday for talks with Egyptian officials.

Al-Mirghani Supports Libya's Right to Aozou

JN181604 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Aug (SUNA) — Democratic Unionist Party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani has announced his support for Libya's right to Aozou as part of Libyan territory in accordance with international laws and current agreements. This support came in a message that he sent to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, which was conveyed by Ahmad Muhammad Ibrahim, secretary of the General People's Committee for Education and Scientific Research in the Jamahiriyah. Al-Mirghani received the Libyan official in Khartoum last Sunday. He also received a verbal message from Al-Qadhdhafi on the Libyan-Chadian dispute over Aozou.

In another development, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani has received Saudi Ambassador in Khartoum Shaykh 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Sudayri. He handed the Saudi ambassador a message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, in which he condemned the acts of terrorism perpetrated by the Iranian pilgrims in holy Mecca. The message also expressed support for the Saudi Government in its measures to preserve the pilgrims' security and stability, to enable the pilgrims to perform their religious rites, and to protect the holy land.

Government, SPLA Clashes Reported in South

600 Wau Civilians Killed

EA181714 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] More than 600 innocent citizens have been killed in cold blood by enemy forces inside Wau town. This has been disclosed by our correspondent in Wau, who said that the massacre occured on 11 and 12 August 1987 when the military commander of Bahr al-Ghazal, Major General Abu Qurun, assisted by police brigadier (Makura Thurbi), had the residential areas of (File Dinka), (Hila Jedib), and (Dir Akok) cordoned off and 350 residents killed.

The following day, 250 more people were randomly picked up from different quarters and slaughtered like sheep, bringing the total killed to 600, our correspondent said.

Remnants of the Khartoum Army, Battalion 240, which was virtually annihilated by SPLA forces of Twik-Twik Battalion at Bahr al-Naam last year, were directly responsible for the massacre. Maj Gen Abu Qurun, the new Army commander of Bahr al-Ghazal, has been openly bragging in Wau about his capability to make many people lose their lives in Wau.

The official spokesman for SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command has strongly condemned the genocidal act, describing it as a calculated action in fulfillment of the government policy of extermination declared by the prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, over the BBC last year.

The spokesman has also called on Amnesty International and other concerned humanitarian organizations to investigate the tragedy.

In view of ongoing government Army atrocities against the civilian population in Bahr al-Ghazal, Lieutant-Colonel Daniel Aweit Akuot, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and the zonal commander for nothern Bahr al-Ghazal, has launched his strongest appeal ever calling upon citizens to evacuate the towns for the countryside where SPLM-SPLA would afford them full security and protection.

Civilians Urged To Evacuate

EA182032 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Major James Wani Igga, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command and the zonal commander for Central Equatoria, has said that his forces were now rapidly closing in on Yei town, and that all citizens would be well-advised to evacuate the town for their own safety.

A mass exodus of the civilian population from Yei has already started, and Maj Wani Igga has strongly urged the citizens left behind in Yei to evacuate as well. Maj Wani Igga said that since SPLM-SPLA has given a clear warning to residents of Yei town of an intending attack, it shall disclaim all responsibilities for whatever harm that may befall persons who choose to remain in Yei.

Maj Wani Igga has also called upon the Army, police, prisons, and wildlife conservation forces in both Maridi and Yei to respond positively and swiftly to the legitimate aspirations of the oppressed masses by joining the ranks of the SPLM-SPLA. Maj Wani said that the organized forces in Maridi and Yei should stage an uprising and join the SPLA so that the armed liberation struggle for the freedom and well-being of the Sudanese people could be stepped up in that part of the country.

SPLA Reports Battle Successes

EA182040 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Five enemy troops have been killed and nine others injured in an SPLA ambush between Yei and Kajo Kaji on 24 July 1987. Reports said that an enemy convoy that was traveling from Kajo Kaji to Yei to collect salaries was suddenly attacked and repulsed on the way by SPLA units under the command of Lieutenant (Hitler Lumuri). Effective control by SPLA of all routes inside western and central Equatoria has denied enemy forces their salaries for some time now.

In another development, Radio SPLA has learned from reliable sources in Yei town that inmates of Yei prison broke out of jail on 7 July 1987 following an outbreak of random shooting. A large number of civilians also left the town during the shooting, the same sources disclosed.

SPLA forces in Western Upper Nile administrative area operating under Major Dr Riak Macher Deng, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and the zonal commander for Western Upper Nile, attacked the town of Mayom on 8 August 1987 after dislodging the enemy forces from

Bul. Our correspondent in Western Upper Nile administrative area says that the attack, which was directed against the positions of the Khartoum Government Army and its militia allies, lasted for almost 8 hours and left dead 10 government troops and 24 militiamen. A total of 80 government soldiers and militia were also injured. The attack, which was launched by units of Tumsah, Oil, Koriom, Wolf, and Tahrir Battalions resulted in extensive damage to enemy installations, our correspondent added.

According to Radio SPLA correspondent in Northern Bahr al-Ghazal, SPLA forces operating under the overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Chuol Ayuwak and the direct command of Captain (John Ring Adol) raided Gogrial town on 31 July 1987. The raid, which was carried out by Gogrial task force, caused heavy casualties to the enemy in both manpower and materiel, our correspondent said.

Rebel Activity in Kordofan Reportedly 'Contained'

JN181804 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1452 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Aug (SUNA) — Large numbers of rebels have infiltrated various areas of the Kordofan region and begun to perpetrate acts of sabotage and killing. Their intent is to sow discord between the Arab and Nubian tribes and between Muslims and Christians.

This was announced by Dr Qamar Husayn, representative of the Aliri-Talodi-Dikalo [names as received] constituency in Kordofan. He said that the internal front is cohesive and strong and that the people and Armed Forces are working together to defeat the rebels. He affirmed that the Armed Forces are in control of the situation. They have cornered the rebels in the Umm Dorein area and have contained the situation there.

The minister of state for defense, who recently visited the area,said yesterday that the Armed Forces were in control of the situation in southern Kordofan following a recent attack by the rebels there.

Burmah Views Situation

JN181236 Khartoum SUNA in English 1115 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 18 (SUNA) — The Armed Forces have restored control over the southern Kordofan region which was recently exposed to attacks by the rebel forces of Colonel John Garang, state defense Minister Gen (Rtd) Fadlallah Burmah Nasir announced yesterday.

Gen Nasir returned here yesterday after paying an inspection visit to the region and held several meetings with the political forces there urging them to contain the situation and maintain stability. Meanwhile, a telegram sent by the commander of Kapoeta Region (southern region) to governor of Equatoria Region said that 33 troops from the rebel forces were killed and 40 guns along with great quantity of ammunition were seized during a foiled attack launched by the rebels on Rivolvo [name as received] village of Kapoeta Region recently.

Al-Mahdi Urges Political Solution to South

JN181707 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Aug (SUNA) — During a seminar held at the main office of the *AL-SIYASAH* newspaper yesterday, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi affirmed that political dialogue is the only solution to the problem of the south. He completely ruled out any military resolution. He said that a political solution is possible if foreign interference is prevented. He added that in Sudan there are no major obstacles for the Sudanese to achieve a peaceful, political solution to the problem.

The seminar was held under the slogan "The South and the Solution." It is part of a series of seminars being held by *AL-SIYASAH* on current issues. During the seminar, Al-Mahdi explained the problem of the south in a historical, political, and military context. He said that the rebel movement led by John Garang is an ideological and strategic movement which has created obvious divisions among the southerners. He also affirmed that the continuation of such a rebel movement in the south can be labeled as terrorism. To underline this point, he noted the military nature of the movement and its dependence on the tribes and the treacherous sides in the north. He added that the Garang movement implies racist concepts despite its national slogans.

Al-Mahdi asserted that Garang's movement has been contained militarily. He added that despite this fact the problem of the south cannot be decided militarily. He explained that the movement is seeking assistance from some foreign elements and has adoptedterrorist methods. This can be described as a war of attrition in various fields and cannot be decided militarily. He also affirmed that there are problems between Sudan and Ethiopia, but added that they are not major ones in view of the fact that Sudan has no ambitions or national interests in this regard and Ethiopia sponsors Garang's movement to make deals with Sudan in favor of Ethiopia's national security. He added that if Sudan and Ethiopia view the problem objectively, there will be no difficulty solving it. He also said that it is more dangerous for Ethiopia to follow its current position.

Al-Mahdi noted that the problem of the south is connected with the process of participation in power resulting from the simultaneous absence of democracy and stability. He also cited the absence of balanced development, as well as hidden factors that can be solved by political education and the media, as contributing factors. The prime minister called for the need to maintain dialogue and not to view the south as a closed region. He affirmed that the forthcoming housing conference will lay the foundation for a housing plan which will take into consideration the interests of the various tribes and their movements across the 12th parallel.

Al-Mahdi voiced the view that the north-south problem is not caused by religion. He said that there is an inevitable connection between the south and the north and that this connection should be maintained now that the joint aims and desires to maintain Sudanese unity have become clear and "cultural domination" has been removed.

Al-Mahdi was followed by Major General 'Uthman 'Abdallah, defense minister in the Transitional Government, who began a discussion of the problem. He emphasized that the southern rebellion is being directed by outside forces and that a peaceful solution is the only way to achieve a solution. He called on the political forces to present definite proposals on this problem in order to discuss them at a conference in the north and south.

Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the State Council, also spoke. He noted that there are two ways of tackling the problem: one is through an external framework, stressing the policy of good-neighborliness; and the second is by means of an internal framework, emphasizing procedural means for realizing peace. He said that the problem of the south is a national one which has transformed local democracy in Sudan into a regional democracy.

'Izz al-Din 'Ali 'Amir of the Sudanese Communist Party also delivered a speech, explaining that the cause of peace is a basic one and that the debris which is on the road to a solution should be removed. He said that the Garang movement's position has shortcomings despite recent political developments.

The last to speak was Dr Al-Jazuli Daf 'Allah, prime minister in the Transitional Government, who noted that both the present and the previous transitional governments had endeavored to establish good-neighborly relations with Ethiopia. He said that the Eritrean issue tarnishes Sudanese-Ethiopian relations. This is an international issue, he added, while Sudanese problems are a domestic matter.

SUNA Cites SPLM Spokesman on Peace Option

JN161223 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Aug (SUNA) — An official spokesman of the SPLM and the SPLA has said that there is no alternative to a peaceful resolution of Sudan's problems. The spokesman pointed out that they have noticed a softening in the government's stand and that it is no longer insisting on the military option. This came in a statement broadcast on the SPLM radio on 14 August and published in the Sudanese Communist Party paper *AL-MAYDAN* today.

AL-MAYDAN also cited Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi as saying that the SPLM radio announcement is in line with the impressions conveyed recently by former Nigerian President Obsangu about his meeting with SPLM leaders in Addis Ababa. Obsangu visited Khartoum last week.

AL-MAYDAN reported that the prime minister did not want to comment on the SPLM spokesman's statement, saying this would come later.

The SPLM spokesman said that the peace process is currently governed by two things: the differences within the government coalition, which are having a negative effect on the peace process; and the indications that the prime minister might abandon his plan to inflict a military defeat on the movement. This, the spokesman said, is a positive development that will give the peace process a push forward.

Idris al-Bann, vice chairman of the State Council, told journalists yesterday that peace is the only way to solve problems. He expressed his readiness to go to Addis Ababa immediately if he is convinced of the SPLM's seriousness in the quest for peace.

Two Sudanese Army Colonels Defect to SPLM-SPLA

EA182044 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Two senior military officers have left service with Khartoum Government Army to join SPLM-SPLA. The two officers are Colonel (Dominic Dim Deng) and Colonel (Salva Motonga). Both come from Gogrial District in Bahr al-Ghazal administrative area. [passage omitted]

Polisario Denounces Morocco's Military Policy
LD181110 Algiers APS in Arabic 0850 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Excerpts] SADR, Liberated Territories, 18 Aug (APS) — In a communique issued yesterday, the Saharan Information Ministry revealed that the Polisario Front's Political Bureau held its fourth session last Saturday to examine the current situation at a national, regional, and international level and to formulate a working program for the next phase.

On this occasion, the Political Bureau made an assessment of the military action and expressed its satisfaction with the victories achieved by the Saharan fighters this year. Thus, it confirmed the Saharan People's Liberation Army's control of the situation on the battlefield and refuted the myth of the invulnerability of the defense walls set up by Morocco. In this respect, the Political Bureau of the Polisario Front hailed sister Algeria for its unconditional support and constant backing of the Saharan people in their legitimate struggle for national independence and territorial integrity.

When analyzing the situation in the region, the Political Bureau denounced the policy of military escalation adopted by Morocco, which has recently been seen in the building of defense walls along the borders of the SADR's neighboring states, especially the sixth wall built along sections of the Mauritanian-Saharan border. This threatens, more than ever, an extension of the war -- an extension that could engulf the entire region.

The Political Bureau noted that Hassan II recently admitted in a statement to the British press that the problem was not between Algeria and Morocco but between Morocco and the SADR.

With regard to the Moroccan king's pledge to respect the results of the referendum, the Political Bureau said that the only obstacle to the free expression of the will of the Saharan people through the referendum on self-determination was the presence of Moroccan military forces, administrators, and settlers, stressing again the commitment of the Polisario Front and the SADR Government to respect the results of the referendum. The referendum is to be carried out by the OAU and the United Nations after all forms of Moroccan presence are eliminated from the Western Sahara.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Political Bureau discussed the negotiations between the EEC and Morocco with regard to fishing.It warned of the consequences this would entail, saying that the intentions of the Moroccan Government are aimed at involving foreign powers in this colonial war, legitimizing the country's occupation,and plundering its resources. This is what creates real dangers, encourages Morocco's obstinacy, and hampers peace efforts.

INTER-GULF AFFAIRS

Gunboats Attack Liberian Tanker in Gulf of Oman

JN181749 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] The Lloyd's insurance company stated that a Liberian tanker carrying chemicals was attacked by two fast gunboats in the Gulf of Oman this afternoon. The identity of the two gunboats has not yet been established. These vessels fired two missiles at the Liberian tanker, one of which scored a hit. Lloyd's says this is the first incident of its kind outside Gulf waters.

London maritime sources implicitly accused Iranian naval units, which belong to the Revolution Guards, by saying that these are the only forces in the area that possess such fast boats.

Tanker Continues Voyage

JN181934 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] We have just learned that the stricken Liberian tanker *Osco Sierra* is heading toward the Gulf after suffering what seems to be an insignificant hit near the Strait of Hormuz. According to Lloyd's, the Liberian tanker is heading for Kuwait.

Extent of Damage Described

JN190729 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Aug (WAKH) — Responsible maritime sources at Al-Fujayrah Port in the UAE have stressed that the Liberian container ship *Osco Sierra*, struck by two missiles while crossing the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, received only a small hit amounting to no more than a small hole in one of its portholes.

The newspaper *Al-Ittihad*, published in Abu Dhabi today, cited these sources as claiming that the hit could be the result of a rifle bullet, ruling out that it was the result of rocket damage as previously reported.

BAHRAIN

Iranian Charge Seeks Criticism of Mecca 'Carnage'

LD182011 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA — Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Manama 'Abbas Shokuhi met Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak ibn Hamad Al Khalifah and presented to him a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati concerning the July 31 Mecca carnage committed by the Saudi regime.

The Iranian diplomat called on Bahrain to condemn the savage Saudi crime in the holy city of Mecca where hundreds of defenseless pilgrims were martyred and thousands of others injured.

Pointing to the high casualty toll of 422 Iranian martyrs, 50 missing pilgrims and about 5,000 wounded, Shokuhi stressed that the Saudi police perpetrated the massacre under U.S. instructions.

In response, the Bahraini official said his country opposes harming of even a single pilgrim of Allah's house and expressed regret over the catastrophe.

Foreign Minister Given Message From Iraq's 'Aziz

JN171850 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Manama, Aug 17 (GNA) — Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah received a message from Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz dealing with relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the region.

The message was delivered by Iraqi Ambassador to Bahrain Taha al-Qaysi today.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister, PDRY Counterpart Discuss Region

LD181340 Kuwait KUNA in English 1217 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 18 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad had talks here Tuesday with Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-Usaymi, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and a number of officials.

Al-Dali arrived here this morning from Bulgaria enroute to his country.

Shaykh Sabah told KUNA that he discussed with his Yemeni counterpart the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting scheduled for next Sunday [23 August] in Tunisia.

He added bilateral ties, relations between the two Yemens and developments in the region were also discussed.

Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin had delivered two days ago a message from Shaykh Sabah to Al-Dali. The message was conveyed to the Yemeni Deputy Foreign Minister Shayea Mohsen [name as received].

The Yemeni foreign minister called for an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war, implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 as well as the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Arabian Gulf.

Al-Dali said that he was pleased to visit Kuwait and meet with deputy premier and foreign minister.

In reply to a question he said that he exchanged with Shaykh Sabah views on developments in the region particularly the Iraq-Iran war and threats resulting from its continuation.

The Yemeni official reaffirmed that the continuation of the Gulf war increased tension in the Arab Gulf as well as on all countries on the region.

Preparation for holding the Arab foreign ministers emergency session scheduled in Tunisia next Sunday was also discussed during the meeting.

He noted that the ministerial meeting will discuss Arab developments and the joint Arab action to confront all dangers threatening the safety and security of Arab countries.

"We underlined the importance of boosting and developing bilateral relations for the benefit of both peoples and countries in the region," Al-Dali said.

On his country's stand toward developments in the region and the UN resolution Al-Dali said that his country supports the UN Resolution 598 which calls for a cessation of hostilities between Iraq and Iran.

He added that the planting of mines in the international sea lanes is not in the interests of peace and stability in the region.

The continuation of the Gulf war and threats of its expansion caused the presence of foreign military forces in the Arabian Gulf which he said will increase tension in the region.

The Yemeni chief diplomat called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Arabian Gulf.

Later on the day minister of state for foreign affairs held a lunch banquet in honor of the Yemeni minister.

Official Returns From PDRY, Sudan Visits

LD172057 Kuwait KUNA in English 1845 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 17 (KUNA) — Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin returned here Monday following a tour of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Sudan during which he delivered messages from Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to foreign ministers of both countries.

Al-Shahin met in Aden yesterday with the Yemeni Deputy Foreign Minister Shayeh Hadi [name as received] and conveyed to him a message from Shaykh al-Sabah to the Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali.

Al-Shahin also conferred with the Yemeni President Haydar Abu Badr al-'Attas on the situation in the Arabian Gulf.

Early today, the Kuwaiti official paid a brief visit to Khartoum and met with Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad and conveyed to him a message from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Later on Al-Shahin had talks with his Sudanese counterpart Mirghani Sulayman.

KUNA learnt that Al-Shahin's tour aimed at exchanging views on the current situation in the region and preparations for the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting, scheduled for next Sunday in Tunisia to discuss the situation in the Arabian Gulf.

Al-Shahin was accompanied by Ibrahim al-Musa from the Political Department.

Prime Minister Receives Diplomats Back From Iran

LD190550 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, received at the Prime Ministry at 1330 this afternoon Kazim Ma'rifi, charge d'affaires of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Iran, and Yusuf 'Abd al-Rahim, a diplomat at that embassy, on the occasion of their arrival from Iran.

PDRY

Iranian Envoy Briefs President on Mecca Events

LD172046 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Aden Hassan Aminian met President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) in Aden Monday and conveyed to him a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Khamene'i.

At the meeting the Iranian ambassador briefed the Yemeni president on the Mecca carnage committed by the Saudi Police on July 31 as well as U.S. plots to meddle in the Persian Gulf.

In response, the PDRY president thanked President Khamane'i for his message, expressing satisfaction with the warm and amiable relations between the two Muslim nations and governments.

Abu Bakr al-'Attas said PDRY closely follows Persian Gulf developments and the U.S. military presence in the region and termed it (U.S. presence) as a danger to all regional people.

PDRY strongly condemns imperialism's military exercises and presence of its war fleets in the region, said the Yemeni president adding that his country considers it an obvious violation of rights and national integrity of the regional nations.

"Continuation of such a situation has increased the dangers of U.S. domination over the regional people," he noted.

Kuwaiti Ministry Official Meets With President

LD170930 Kuwait KUNA in English 0812 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Aden, Aug 17 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin last night left here, after he met with President of People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas.

Earlier Shahin conveyed a message from Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, Radio Aden reported.

The message tackled bilateral relations and developments in the Arab arena, the radio added.

During the meeting Shahin reviewed with Al-'Attas bilateral relations, latest developments in the region and the two countries' stance on these issues.

The continuation of the Iraq-Iran war will increase tension in the region and encourage foreign intervention, Al-'Attas underlined in the talks, according to Aden radio.

The Kuwaiti official arrived here yesterday.

SAUDI ARABIA

SPA Views Tehran's Claims on Treatment of Pilgrims

LD182251 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2020 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Aug (SPA) — The SPA local affairs editor has written the following:

All the masks have finally fallen from the faces of Iran's rulers, and their true intentions and nature have been exposed to the whole world. The noose of isolation has begun to tighten around their necks; they thus began to seek feeble canards and frail excuses to conceal their crimes and justify their sins, and to distract the Iranian people's attention from the most vile crime they had committed in the sacred precinct of Ka'bah in Mecca on Friday, the 6th of Dhu Al-Hijjah 1407 AH [31 July 1987].

An example of their feeble canards is their claim yesterday that Saudi authorities had arrested the so-called [Hoseyn] Rezai'e, the supervisor of Iran's pilgrimage affairs, and his colleagues, and forced them to depart. They also claimed that they had asked [Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi] Karrubi [the imam's representative and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims] to leave the country, and that the Iranian hajj center had been surrounded by 3,000 members of the Saudi Armed Forces. A responsible source immediately answered them in a clear statement to SPA to the effect that Rezai'e and his colleagues' return to Tehran took place in accordance with the program established for the pilgrims' departure to their homelands, including Iranians, after completing the execution of their duty and theperformance of the pilgrimage rites.

As for Karrubi, he left Mecca for Jeddah of his own accord, and stayed at the Iranian Consulate after visiting Medina. The Saudi Government — from the premise of its Islamic manners and Arab morals, and out of its eagerness to protect its guests, no matter who they may be — provided the necessary protection for the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah and guaranteed those in it the ability to carry out their work in total freedom without harming any of them. The Saudi Government, out of its eagerness for the safety of their souls in view of the angry storm boiling equally in the chests of the people, citizens, and pilgrims over the violation of God's sanctities and the kindling of sedition among Muslims, provided them protection until Karrubi and his colleagues were able to return safely to their homeland at midday Tuesday.

Is the Kingdom to be blamed for such a noble action? And is the Kingdom to be asked through the trumpets of Tehran why it protects God's guests even if Karrubi and his colleagues are among them?

This is occurring at a time when the whole world has witnessed how the Iranian Government authorized and pushed, even with premeditation and determination, its demagogues to violate the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies in Tehran. The whole world has witnessed how they burned the flags, ruined the furniture, and savagely tampered with everything inside in a manner unprecedented in the history of diplomatic norms. The rulers of Tehran impudently announced that this was the expression of what they termed the masses' anger.

There is no better proof of those savage acts than the aggression against a Musay'id al-Ghamidi, a member of the Saudi Embassy staff in Tehran, who was left weakened by his wounds by the Iranian authorities without any attention or medical care. This was despite the Saudi authorities' continuous insistence on obtaining the Iranian Government's authorization to land a Saudi medical aircraft and transport him to the Kingdom for treatment.

But the Tehran regime temporized and delayed, in its usual behavior, until the Saudi official's health deteriorated, and he died. Only then did the Iranian Government allow him to be transported to the Kingdom on the return flight of an Iranian pilgrims' aircraft.

After this they wonder, through their trumpets and those who are misguided among them, why we guard their embassy in Riyadh and why we supply the necessary protection for the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah, which includes Karrubi and his assistants who led the demagogic actions in Mecca.

We proudly reply: We have done this because we are honest, generous, God-fearing people, and for His sake we show regard for lives and honor, and spare the blood of Muslims.

We protected them because our shari'ah orders us to do so, and because the teachings of our orthodox religion instigate this. These are the qualities we inherited from our fathers and forefathers; they will remain in our blood as long as God wishes them to. But how can the rulers of Iran understand this and perceive its meaning?

King Fahd Receives Sudanese Officials 18 Aug
LD182000 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1735 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Aug (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, today received Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the Sudanese State Council, and his accompanying delegation at his office in Ol-Salam Palace. Al-Banna conveyed to him a message from his brother, Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council. He also conveyed to him, may God protect him, a message from his brother, Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

Crown Prince Receives Al-Banna
LD182114 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 18 Aug (SPA) — This evening at his palace in Jeddah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the Sudanese State Council. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Meets Guests
LD191235 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1157 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 19 Aug (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received in his office in Jeddah at noon today His Excellency Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the Sudanese State Council, and his accompanying delegation, who is presently on a visit to the Kingdom.

During the meeting, issues of common interest to the two fraternal countries were reviewed. Bilateral relations were also discussed.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Security Source States No Mines Found in Waters
JN190947 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Aug (WAKH) — The UAE security authorities have so far not found any mine or foreign object in UAE territorial waters, particularly on the east coast off the Amirate of Al-Fujayrah.

A military team associated with the UAE Armed Forces is still comprehensively surveying UAE territorial waters for anything that might hinder navigation, such as the mine that struck the supply ship *Anita*, killing one sailor, wounding others, causing five persons to be reported missing.

The Abu Dhabi newspaper *Al-Ittihad* today cited well-informed maritime sources in Al-Fujayrah as saying that a ship fitted with technical equipment will arrive in Al-Fujayrah today carrying a number of divers to conduct a comprehensive search for the bodies of the five missing sailors. The sources added that today's search operations will last several hours.

UAE navigation officials said that some UAE navigation companies had requested that remote-controlled navigational equipment be fixed to small boats or cruisers that would sail in front of ships and large supply boats to protect them from mines. This system would provide protection for the ships and would be less expensive than renting helicopters to supply tankers anchored in territorial waters off Al-Fujayrah Port.

The newspaper quotes a supply company manager as saying that he had ordered remote-controlled equipment from abroad that would soon arrive in the UAE. He added that no sailors would be aboard the remote-controlled craft sailing ahead of the supply boats. The manager stressed that this system would continue until it was ascertained that waters off the state's eastern coast are clear of mines.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Foreign Minister Given Message From Iraq's 'Aziz
JN171844 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Sanaa, 17 Aug (INA) — Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received a message from Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The message concerns relations between the two countries and regional developments.

'Abd Husayn al-Rifa'i, Iraqi ambassador to Sanaa, delivered the message when Dr al-Iryani received him here today.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Received 18 Aug
NC190555 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Mr Lavasani, director general of the Foreign Ministry [title as heard], met in Sanaa yesterday with 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister. They discussed bilateral relations and the current regional situation.

Joint Oil Pipeline With Turkey To Be Inaugurated

JN181447 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA) — Iraq Minister of Oil 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim departed for Ankara today. He is heading a delegation to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline's second expansion project. The ceremony will be held in Turkey tomorrow.

The project became operational on 27 July, and Iraqi oil has begun to flow to the oil export terminal.

Reportage on Gulf War Operations Continues

Iran's Sinking of Ships Denied

JN190902 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations on sinking an Iraqi frigate and several boats yesterday.

In a statement to INA a short while ago, the spokesman said that these allegations are far from the truth, pointing out that no battles had occurred between Iraqi and Iranian naval units. The spokesman explained that Iranian boats had attempted to approach Al-'Amiq Port and that Iraqi naval units confronted them, forcing them to flee.

Claims on Al-'Amadiyah Denied

JN181950 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that battles took place in the Al-'Amadiyah area on Iraq's northeastern borders. The spokesman told INA that this Iranian announcement is no more than afabrication by its media and a ridiculous claim by some agents who are on its payroll and who wish to justify the wages they receive.

Iran Warned Against Striking Civilian Targets

JN181947 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 18 AUG 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 aug (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has rebutted Iranian claims that the Iraqi Air Force bombarded residential areas in Sar Dasht or in any other Iranian location. In a statement to INA, the military spokesman stated that if the Iranians seek through these false claims to find excuses for shelling Iraqi residential areas, Iraq will reply vehemently and in a manner that the Iranian regime will be unable to tolerate.

The spokesman affirmed that if this happens the entire responsibility will rest with the Iranian regime. The spokesman said that Iraq is defending its civilians and their property. Iraq's patience is not inexhaustible when it comes to the Iranian regime's insistence on dealing blows against Iraqi residential areas.

Iranian Opposition Reports Further Successes

JN171900 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Some 154 aides of the Iranian regime were killed in a daring military operation carried out by units of the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] in Surin in the Marivan area recently.

A report carried by Mojahed radio, the mouthpiece of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, stated that INLA units attacked two Iranian enemy bases and took possession of them. They also destroyed four other bases in the region after inflicting heavy losses on the regime's personnel. The radio explained that the Iranian regime sent reinforcements of its repressive guards to the region in an attempt to confront the INLA forces.

Peres on Meeting Shevardnadze, Lavi Decision

TA181654 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] During a tour of the Haifa area, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres spoke about future Soviet involvement in the peace process, as well as a meeting he is expected to have with the Soviet foreign minister at the UN General Assembly in about a month. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar accompanied Shim'on Peres.

[Begin recording] [Zohar] Shim'on Peres today toured 'Atlit, Newe Yam, and 'En Hod. During his visit, he expressed his belief that the USSR's attitude toward Israel will improve. Peres also discussed a meeting he will possibly have with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze.

[Peres] As you know, the Soviets are very interested in being involved in Middle East negotiations. They are in the Middle East as it is, of course. The question is, which is preferable: Is it better that the Soviet Union act outside the circle of peace, or that it act within this circle? Some say both possibilities are dangerous. When I get to the UN General Assembly during the second half of September, I will probably meet with the Soviets there.

[Zohar] A final decision on the Lavi project will be made during the Cabinet meeting next week, according to Peres' assessment. For the time being, Peres settles for his proposal that a ministerial team examine how $150 million can be added to the defense budget for financing the project.

[Peres] I think that the government will make a supreme effort to do so. We still have a problem though, because I believe at the moment there is a tie in the distribution of opinions in the Cabinet: 12 for and 12 against. We should therefore seek ways to overcome this tie. [end recording]

Peres Aide on Making Soviet Meetings 'Routine'

TA181516 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Studio interview with Dr Nimrod Novik, political adviser to Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, by Ilana Dayan — live]

[Excerpt] [Dayan] Good evening, Dr Novik. To use high-flown language, did you establish in Bonn a channel of communications between Jerusalem and Moscow?

[Novik] No, the channel of communications had been established beforehand. It was ceremoniously opened; we perhaps cut the ribbon in Bonn.

[Dayan] What does this mean in fact: more frequent meetings, an open telephone line, telegrams, telex, what?

[Novik] Telegrams and telex, not yet. This will have to await the resumption of official diplomatic relations, when we have an embassy there. This is still a long way off in my assessment. However, reference has been made to additional meetings and a more routine approach to these meetings. There does not have to be a big celebration when two peoples who have a common interest in bilateral relations, as well as in the peace process, meet, discuss matters, and try to bridge disagreements. The intention is to make this routine. [passage omitted]

IAI Notes 'No Chance' of $200 Million Lavi Cut

TA190634 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Aug 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joshua Brilliant, Asher Wallfish, Jeff Black, and Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Israeli Aircraft Industries [IAI] board, Mordekhay Hod, said yesterday there was no chance IAI would produce a plan to cut the Lavi's costs by $200m. [million] a year.

The Cabinet on Sunday deferred a decision on building the plane, largely because, as Premier Shamir said, it wanted to give IAI a chance to see if it could cut the costs by the amount.

Asked by *The Jerusalem Post* whether IAI could indeed effect such a cut, Hod said: "No, certainly not."

IAI had already made "a great effort" to cut costs by $100m. a year, and "this is the contribution we can make," he said.

Some effort was being made to see if costs could be cut further, but Hod left no doubt that the savings would be marginal at best.

Economists in the Prime Minister's Office and the Defense Ministry doubted whether IAI would even stand by the suggested $100m. cut, sources said.

The Treasury yesterday rejected all talk of a possible increase in taxes to finance the Lavi. Deputy Finance Minister 'Adi Amoray said an increase in taxation would mean an end to the renewed economic growth which the country was beginning to experience.

Amoray said the proposals to raise to income-tax rates by 2 or 3 per cent or introduce a compulsory loan would harm the economic reforms instituted this year.

Ministry officials also said that even if the Cabinet did not halt the Lavi now, the issue would be raised again in a few months, when the project encountered financial difficulties. "But then there will be no alternative but to terminate the project," they said.

Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday accused opponents of the Lavi project of defeatism.

Speaking at the Nesher cement factory in Ramla, Sharon said the issue was not just the future of the Lavi but Israel's independence and self-confidence.

"Today it's the Lavi," he said, "tomorrow the Merkava tank and the day after milk, eggs, fruit...we stand to lose everything."

In a partial retraction of his proposal to abolish certain tax rebates to collect funds for the Lavi, Vice Premier Peres yesterday suggested that the money need not come from any one source alone.

Speaking during a tour to 'Atlit, Peres said, "I won't commit myself in advance on what sources of funds should be tapped for the project. There are many possibilities. I don't accept the Finance Ministry's "all-or-nothing stand. [quotation marks as published]

"We shouldn't levy special taxes for the Lavi," he added. "The finance minister named six possible sources of funds. We could take $25 million from each without it being felt."

He mentioned Minister-Without-Portfolio Yiga'el Hurvitz's proposal to sell government corporations as one source of funds.

Hurvitz yesterday confirmed the announcement by Peres that Hurvitz had crossed the Cabinet floor and was now ready to support the continuation of the Lavi project, under certain conditions. [passage omitted]

Molotov Cocktail Thrown Near Al-Duhayshah Camp

TA181724 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] A short while ago a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli vehicle near the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The security forces closed off the area and began searches.

Demolition of Bedouin Mosque in Negev Ordered

TA181527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Justice (Rut Davida) of the Beersheba Magistrates' Court has decided to uphold the demolition order issued yesterday by the court against the mosque in Rahat [a Bedouin settlement in the Negev]. In her decision the justice stated that the law must be upheld even if this is painful, as the mosque was built without a license.

Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch reports that the Bedouins' appeal to cancel the demolition order lasted the entire day. The justice asked to see the mosque and made her decision on the spot. A force of approximately 1,000 policemen and border police waited for the order to be carried out. The Bedouins fortified themselves inside the mosque and said that they would forcibly resist the demolition. After the judge made her decision, the representatives of the Interior Ministry and the Bedouins concluded that the Bedouins themselves will demolish the building by next Sunday.

Syrian Settlements on Golan Heights Examined

TA181005 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Aug 87 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] Syria recently began building a new settlement on the border of the Golan Heights called "New Majdal Shams," which forms part of a chain of settlements along the cease-fire line. Its precise location is opposite the so-called "hill of shouts" [where Druze from the Syrian and Israeli sides of the border congregate to exchange messages by shouting] in the vicinity of the Druze village of Majdal Shams. The cornerstone for the new settlement was laid approximately 1 month ago.

So far the Syrians have set up 10 settlements along the Golan Heights near the Israeli border, all modeled exactly alike. According to official declarations, the new settlements are meant to develop the civilian infrastructure of the Golan Heights, thereby strengthening the Syrian hold over the area. At the same time, it is also possible that the settlements could, in theory, help to conceal commando units on the eve of an offensive.

The construction of most of the new villages was completed a long time ago, but the Syrians have been unable to find people willing to live there. Most of them, therefore, are either ghost towns or inhabited by only one or two families.

Parallel to the establishment of the villages, a new neighborhood was also built in Al-Qunaytirah called "New Al-Qunaytirah." To date, that district has been populated by only a few hundred residents.

Military sources believe that the Syrian claim that they only want to boost the civilian factor on the Golan Heights may be accepted. This is in light of the fact that it would be extremely difficult to hide any significant military unit in those villages, to be used for surprise attacks, with the IDF observing it from such a close range.

The new settlement momentum on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights should be viewed as part of a more comprehensive development momentum, whose core is the "Al-Yarmuk Project." The Syrians have been working on this project energetically, erecting a network of dams and canals to collect and divert Al-Yarmuk waters. According to existing plans, the project should be completed within 1 or 2 years and involves an expenditure of tens of millions of dollars. UN aid funds and FRG civilian companies have all contributed toward that project.

The completion of the Syrian project will spell the extinction of agriculture on the eastern side of the Jordan Rift Valley, which serves as one of Jordan's primary sources of agricultural produce. In the opinion of military sources, the Jordanians will not be able to easily accept all aspects of the Syrian project.

Al-Rifa'i Reports 'Punctual' Receipt of Saudi Aid

JN171545 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has stated that the Saudi Arabian Government paid this year's second installment of Arab financial aid stipulated by the Baghdad summit on time. The prime minister voiced the Jordanian Government's gratitude and appreciation to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and to the Saudi Government for Saudi Arabia's constant support and its regularly punctual aid payment. He said that this has always been Saudi Arabia's policy. The prime minister added: Saudi Arabia's support is a true expression of the distinguished brotherly relations between His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. It is also a real indication of Saudi Arabia's eagerness to bolster existing brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries, praise be to God. Furthermore, it shows that Saudi Arabia is eager to reinforce Jordan's steadfastness.

Al-Rifa'i To Visit Syria To Discuss Dam Project

JN171358 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] According to well-informed sources in Amman, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i will visit Syria within the next 24 hours. The visit will be of an economic nature.

Zayd al-Rifa'i is described by political circles in Amman as the troubleshooter in Damascus, enjoying special relations with Syrian officials. He has made two secret visits to Damascus, one last month and another early this month. Both trips were connected with Jordanian mediation efforts to effect a reconciliation between Damascus and Baghdad.

However, Al-Rifa'i's projected visit to Damascus concerns the Jordanian-Syrian joint project to build a dam on the Al-Yarmuk River. Although the idea of the project was first broached in 1954 and technical studies were completed in 1976, its implementation was hindered by the deterioration in Jordanian-Syrian relations in 1980. When relations were normalized in October 1985, there was renewed talk about implementing the project. Syria, however, still has reservations about it in view of its strategic location on the Syrian-Jordanian-Israeli border.

Omani Official Arrives With Message for King

JN181232 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Sayf ibn Hamad ibn Sa'ud, chief of Oman's Sultani Court, arrived in Amman today on a 1-day official visit to Jordan. He told PETRA that he will convey a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus to His Majesty King Husayn on the distinguished, brotherly ties existing between the two countries. The Omani official praised relations between the two fraternal peoples, embodied and fostered by His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'ud.

On hand to greet the chief of Oman's Sultani Court were Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the Omani ambassador to Amman.

Received by King Husayn

JN182042 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Sayf ibn Hamad ibn Sa'ud, chief of Oman's Sultani Court, at Al-Nadwa Palace this afternoon. The Omani official conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'ud of Oman concerning fraternal bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

AL-DUSTUR Criticizes Shamir's Visit to Romania

JN181130 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
18 Aug 87 pp 24, 19

[News analysis: "Shamir's Visit to Romania"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday departed for Romania at the invitation of Romanian President Ceausescu. News agencies say that talks will focus on the possibility of reaching a settlement in the Middle East region. With regard to this visit, we note the following:

1. Shamir has adopted a clear policy; namely, the policy of outright rejection of the peace idea. He adheres to the idea of imposing capitulation represented by bilateral negotiations. Having won the battle within Israel, Shamir will now try to achieve new conquests as he did during his African tour, or try to find political support for his viewpoint concerning the holding of regional talks.

2. Peres declared yesterday that the channels of positive contacts with the USSR are open. This statement on the day Shamir left for Bucharest means that Peres wants to say that he gets credit for the resumption of USSR-Israeli relations since Shamir affirmed yesterday that the most important topic during his visit will be to convince Romania to mediate with the USSR to open the door for Soviet Jewish emigration. With the mentality of the Jewish merchant "Shylock," Shamir will exploit the visit as much as possible for the sake of Israel without showing any good intention toward the settlement idea.

3. It is no secret that Romania was the godfather of the separate Camp David solution. Neither is it a secret that Shamir wants the peace process to follow the Camp David pattern and to apply the Camp David framework concerning autonomous rule. These old and new Romanian roles make us pessimistic. Romania is the only socialist country which has maintained relations with Israel since the 1967 aggression. Romania is also trying to play an international role in tackling some regional issues, especially the Middle East question. Its ambition makes it deviate from the just bases of the solution by submitting its own proposals.

4. Shamir said yesterday that he will acquaint himself with the position of certain Arab countries, and especially with the PLO stance. At the same time, he rejects even the idea of negotiations with the PLO or PLO participation in any settlement. Yet, he announces that direct negotiations are the only path to follow with the Arab countries. Therefore, the Romanian-Israel scenario looks for a separate deal.

5. Shamir affirmed yesterday that he will move to rally support for direct negotiations and that this visit is the beginning of his efforts. Therefore, what Shamir wants, perhaps with the support of Romania and other international parties, is to try to circumvent the efforts exerted for several years to hold an international conference to be attended by all the regional and international parties concerned to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the region. Shamir's path is the path of hunting the Arab parties, one at a time, to weaken their negotiating position and to impose capitulation on them. Therefore, Shamir's move is against settlement after he has won the battle inside Israel. Moreover, these moves reveal the reality of the Zionist position, which rejects peace and exposes the region to grave dangers.

Iranian Delegation Tries To Ease Tension in South

NC181725 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] There is some tension between Amal Movement members and personnel manning Palestinian positions on the combat lines east of Sidon. Efforts have been increased to ease the tension there and to arrive at a solution. As part of these efforts, a delegation fromthe Islamic Republic of Iran comprised of Dr (Hasan) and (Baba'i) has visited Shabriha in the Tyre district. While there, the delegation met with 'Atif 'Awn, chairman of the Amal Movement's Executive Committee. During the meeting, the conferees discussed the current developments in the camps situation. They reached agreement on the need to ease the tension in the south in general, and in Sidon in particular, in the supreme Islamic interest and for the interest of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Shaykh Mahir Hammud convened a meeting at his house that was attended by leaders of Palestinian groups and a number of Muslim ulema. They agreed on the need to abide by the cease-fire in the area east of Sidon. The participants also agreed to exert efforts to attain a settlement in order to frustrate the schemes of the enemies of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, particularly in the resisting south.

Al-Jumayyil Signs Law on Additional Defense Funds

NC181515 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has signed a law allocating an additional 1.75 billion Lebanese pounds to the National Defense Ministry's budget. Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran, and acting Finance Minister Joseph al-Hashim have also signed the law.

Lebanese Front Pledges Efforts for New Government

NC191217 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Front following its weekly meeting on 19 August — recorded]

[Text] After reviewing the current issues in Lebanon during this difficult time and considering in particular the economic, financial, social, and security deterioration, the Lebanese Front has decided to make efforts immediately in all areas to extricate the country from its present, stifling crises. The Front considers the first step along this path to be the formation of a courageous and corrective government with the power to rule. While expressing the people's will in this respect, the Front is convinced that there must be a legitimate entity capable of making decisions, adopting extraordinary measures during the present special circumstances, and following up on their implementation.

The various proposals being presented which are incompatible with this decision are merely efforts to distort, numb, and throw dust in the people's eyes. The Front expresses readiness to acquaint the citizens with the measures it has decided to take, step-by-step, so that they are kept well-informed.

O Lebanese, the Front is yours. May you and Lebanon live long.

Israeli Jets Drop Flares on Camps in 'Mock Raid'

NC190433 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] According to security sources in the south, 6 Israeli warplanes dropped more than 50 flares during a mock raid last night, setting fire to some buildings in the Palestinian camps near Sidon. Palestinian gunmen opened fire on the Israeli aircraft. The sources noted that the Israeli fighter planes flew over the camps for 15 minutes and that fires broke out in Al-Miyah wa Miyah as a result of the flares.

Resistance Operations Reported Against Israelis

NC190629 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] A resistance group ambushed an Israeli foot patrol on the Jabal Basil-al-Salhani road in the central sector this morning. Fierce fighting ensued, lasting approximately 90 minutes. The resistance fighters used machineguns, rockets, and hand grenades in the battle, killing seven patrol members.

The same group ambushed vehicles sent in by the enemy as reinforcements. One of these vehicles hit a land mine, which destroyed it and wounded the passengers. The occupation army's artillery and helicopters retaliated by raking villages near the scene of the operation. The fate of two of the group's members is unknown. The enemy admitted the confrontation in a news bulletin.

The Islamic Resistance issued a statement last night asserting that it had destroyed a Zionist patrol in the central sector in southern Lebanon. The statement says that one of its groups detonated an explosive charge at 1930 yesterday as an enemy patrol was passing between the towns of Dayr Siryan and 'Alman. The statement adds that the patrol included one armored car and one tank, which were destroyed, and that all crew members were killed. Concluding, the statement says that in response to its great losses, the Zionist enemy fired more than 40 rockets at nearby villages.

Glass Abductors Reportedly 'Facilitated' Escape
JN181822 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] U.S. journalist Charles Glass was handed over to the U.S. Embassy in Damascus today. [passage omitted]

I have learned from a source very close to the Syrian forces in Lebanon that the abductors of Glass facilitated his escape. They did this so that they would not appear to be succumbing to the pressure Syria had brought to bear on them to release Glass. The Syrian forces command in Lebanon was informed of this before Glass was released. All appropriate measures were taken to ensure his safe arrival in Damascus.

Vernon Walters Thanks Al-Asad
JN190535 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from Vernon Walters, U.S. representative to the United Nations, last night. Walters expressed appreciation on behalf of himself and the United States for Syria's efforts in securing the release of U.S. journalist Charles Glass. He also expressed gratitude for Syria's great humanitarian action.

Al-Asad, UAE President Hold Closed Meeting
JN100538 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, resumed their talks at noon yesterday in a closed meeting. Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, member of the UAE Supreme Council and ruler of Umm al-Quwayn; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian vice president; Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, representative of the UAE president; and Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, later joined the meeting.

During these talks, the two sides continued their examination of the topics discussed at previous meetings. These topics are related to the current situation and developments in the region and in the Gulf, as well as Arab issues, solidarity, and ways to promote relations between Syria and the UAE.

Soviet Trade Delegation Arrives for Damascus Fair
JN171526 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus 17 Aug (SANA) — Vladimir Burmistrov, Soviet first deputy minister of foreign trade [title as received], and his accompanying delegation arrived here today for the opening ceremonies of the Damascus International Fair. Upon arrival, he stated that the significance of his delegation's visit to Syria lies in the talks they will hold with the economic minister. Burmistrov noted that he will also examine ways to further develop and expand trade relations in the best interests of the friendly peoples of Syria and the USSR.

Hungarian Delegation Arrives
JN171600 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Otto Herkner, Hungary's deputy minister of foreign trade, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon to attend the 34th Damascus International Fair. Herkner is deputy chairman of the joint Syrian-Hungarian committee for economic, technical, and cultural cooperation.

Soviet Party Delegation Arrives in Damascus 17 Aug
JN171504 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] A CPSU delegation led by Comrade Shenind, first secretary of the Khakass Autonomous Oblast Party Committee in the Caucasus Republic [name and title as received], arrived in Damascus at noon today.

The visit comes at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's National Command and will last for several days.

Najib, Ministers Mark Army Day in Kabul

LD190844 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0506 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Kabul, August 18, *Bakhtar* — Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, participated in a glorious function held in the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence on the occasion of the anniversary celebration of the restoration of independence and the Army Day of the DRA to be marked on August 19.

Haji Muhammad Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, some Politburo members and Secretariat of the Central Committee of the PDPA, members of the Revolutionary Council and those of the Council of Ministers, representatives of the social organisations and some members of the leadership of the Ministries of Defence, Interior and the State Security also attended the meeting.

A number of retired and incumbent generals and Army personnel delivered speeches on the occasion.

The congratulatory messages of the Ministries of Interior and State Security, Central Council of National Front, Central Committee of DYOA, Women's Council of Afghanistan, the Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation, the High Jirgah of Tribes and other social organisations were read at the meeting.

A congratulatory telegram of the personnel of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union addressed to the Army personnel of the DRA was also read.

The message of the PDPA CC addressed to the Army and that of the Army personnel of the DRA to the PDPA CC on this occasion were also read at the meeting.

Later, Nabib awarded the orders and medals of the DRA to the officers and soldiers of the DRA in recognition of their heroic services.

PDPA Central Committee Issues Message on Army Day

LD182020 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] The following is the message of the PDPA Central Committee on the occasion of DRA Army Day:

The men, noncommissioned officers, officers, and generals of the DRA fighting Army:

On the occasion of 19 August, the anniversary of the country's restoration of independence and the 2d anniversary of the DRA Army, the PDPA Central Committee expresses its most sincere congratulations to you, the guardians of the homeland and heirs of the epic battles fought for independence and revolution.

Celebrating Army Day demonstrates the enormous love the Afghans have for their national army. Under today's complicated and difficult circumstances in which imperialism and reaction increasingly intervene in the internal affairs of the country, our Army is discharging its sacred duty to defend the homeland, the people, and the revolution.

After the victory of the April Revolution, our Army, in the continuation of military tradition, has been transformed into a new army, a formidable power. This new army plays its role in an effective way in its efforts to solve issues and to stabilize the situation in the country. At present, the Army is playing an essential role in implementing the new policy of the party and revolutionary sovereignty regarding national reconciliation.

Our Army has been transformed not only into a school of bravery and courage, but also into a school of revolution, life, and training of the people with a patriotic spirit and internationalism. Above all, it is responsible for raising our youth in this spirit. Its role is enormously important for consolidating and broadening the government's sovereignty, developing the social pillars of the revolution, creating conditions for peace, and carrying out activities among the broad masses of troops and the country's inhabitants to explain the situation.

Our Army's personnel are marking their 2d anniversary at a time when we notice in their activities vivid and practical manifestations for enhancing the level of political and combat preparedness, combat ability, and independence in their duties.

The party highly assesses the heroic military and epic-making task of the Army's units and companies in the struggle against the enemies of national reconciliation, as well as the violators of the cease-fire who, by supporting imperialism and reaction, are trying to test our power via military operations.

Thousands of worthy Army personnel have been commended and presented with DRA badges and medals, and four Army personnel have gained the title of DRA hero.

The worthy title — Heroic Army Unit — has been presented to three companies whose personnel displayed collective heroism.

The PDPA has always regarded the issue of the defense of the homeland and military (?structural) issues as major areas of its policy and will continue to supply the Army with equipment necessary for the defense of peace in Afghanistan.

The implementation of the new Military Conscription Law, as seen in salary increases and extra privileges for the personnel of the Armed Forces, including the army, constitutes the best testimony for this task.

The men, noncommissioned officers, officers, and generals of the DRA Army:

Constantly enhance the level of your combat and political ability and your professional expertise. Be prepared to inflict heavy blows on the enemies of the homeland and of peace in our ancestral land.

Political workers, party members, and the DRA Army's DYOA: You are the carriers of the party policy among Army personnel. With your earnest words, find a place in the heart of the others and arouse the Army personnel for epic-making deeds for the

country's independence, for the prosperity of the people, and for the victory of the revolution. Organize the personnel around the PDPA. The power of the party is carried in the people and the people's power is carried in the Army.

Let service in the ranks of the Armed Forces, above all the Army, to be transformed into a consummate test of patriotism.

Long live our homeland Afghanistan; victory to the heroic Army of the DRA.

[Signed] The PDPA Central Committee

Leadership Cables Greetings to USSR Officials

LD190850 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] The PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council Presidium, and the DRA Council of Ministers have sent to Moscow the following message in reply to a message from the party and government leaders of the Soviet Union sent to Kabul on the occasion of the anniversary of the country's restoration of independence:

Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade A.A. Gromyko, president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade N. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers:

Dear comrades:

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, the DRA Government, all the people of Afghanistan, and myself, I express appreciation and heartfelt thanks for your warm congratulations on the occasion of Afghanistan's national festival, the anniversary of the restoration of independence.

In 1919 the free-born people of Afghanistan regained their country's independence as a result of a long and self-sacrificing struggle against the alien colonialists, thus assisting in the emancipation of the people of Asia.

The people of Afghanistan will always remember that the Soviet Union, led by the great Lenin, the formidable friend of the Muslim people of the East, was the first country in the world to recognize the independence of Afghanistan and to establish relations with it on the basis of principles of equality, mutual respect, nonintervention in internal affairs, and productive reciprocal advantageous ties. This Leninist principle — peaceful coexistence — has formed the foundation for good-neighborly relations between our countries.

After the victory of the national and democratic April Revolution in Afghanistan, these relations have been upgraded to a new qualitative level and transformed into fraternal friendly relations and revolutionary solidarity.

The people of Afghanistan are deeply grateful to the great Soviet Union for its disinterested internationalist assistance to our country in the struggle against foreign aggression by imperialist and reactionary forces, and for its comprehensive assistance in the growth of our national economy.

We are profoundly grateful to the people of the Soviet Union for their political support of the PDPA and the DRA Government toward the achievement of national reconciliation, the restoration of peace in the country, the peaceful resolution of the situation surrounding Afghanistan, and the attraction of all patriotic forces of Afghan society to the growth [words indistinct] process of the country on the basis of the principles of independence, sovereignty, and nonalignment.

We express heartfelt gratitude to Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, for his resolute support for the policy of national reconciliation and the measures taken in Afghanistan for its implementation. The support aired during talks in Saratan [ended 21 July] in Moscow at a high level with a new force. [sentence as heard]

We affirm and warmly support the new peaceful initiatives of the Soviet Union for improving the international situation and creating a world without nuclear weapons. This is another example of the relentless, peaceful foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet Government.

We wish you, the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the USSR Government, and you personally, dear comrades, success in your indefatigable activities for the prosperity and blossoming of the Soviet people, and for the consolidation of peace and security on our planet.

[Signed] The PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, and the DRA Council of Ministers

PDPA Politburo Releases Party Members for Poor Work

LD151908 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Excerpts] A regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held today. [passage omitted] The Politburo issued specific tasks to a number of ministries and social and party organizations in order to remove shortcomings and to organize the expansion of cultural activities in DRA educational establishments.

The Politburo discussed the further promotion of work with the nomads, who constitute a large part of our country's population and are especially important. During the years following the revolution, the Ministry of Tribes and Nationalities organized a number of useful measures, based on PDPA policy, to attract the nomads to take part in revolutionary power. Nomads' consultative assemblies have been created in various provinces, cooperation protocols have been signed with them, dozens of traditional tribal nomad assemblies have been organized, and the distribution of cards for temporary exemption from military service for them has been started. The first nomads' assembly was held in Kabul recently.

The Politburo approved the accomplished measures and commissioned the relevant bodies to take specific measures to remove shortcomings in the work with the nomads and to enhance the role and effectiveness of their participation by implementing the national reconciliation policy.

The Politburo assessed the work and activities of the administration and the party committee of the DRA Attorney General's Office. Considering the previous resolution concerning the work of the bodies of the DRA prosecutor's office on observing revolutionary legality and strengthening the campaign against abuses, bribery, embezzlement, and other negative phenomenon, the Politburo pointed out that the implementation of this resolution is being carried out only slowly. The party members and responsible officials of the Attorney General's Office have not been informed about the content of this resolution. The necessary work has not been carried out concerning the files which had been maintained in total disregard of the law. Shortcomings still exist in the work of the central and local departments of the Attorney General's Office and in training, completing [as heard], and appointing of cadres.

The primary party organization of the Attorney General's Office does not fulfill its role and authority. It has not shown a necessary approach toward the demands of party authorities, and it has not taken disciplinary measures.

The party committee of this organization is lagging behind in implementing the restructuring policy. The party committee of 10th Ward of Kabul city has shown indifference to the negative stand of the primary party organization of the Attorney General's Office, and has not taken the necessary measures to remove the serious shortcomings.

The Politburo assessed as unsatisfactory the work and activities of the administration by the party organization of the DRA Attorney General's Office.

The Politburo approved the decision that Comrade Sayed Jalal Cheshdi, secretary of the party primary organization and head of control and organization of the Attorney General's Office, should be given a warning which will be entered on his card. He should also be released from existing party and state posts. Comrade Aslami, sectional secretary with authority [monshi shobawi zisahlah] and head of the Secretariat of the Attorney General's Office, should be given a warning which will be entered on his card.

Special Interrogator Azizollah Ghani Zada should be released from professional duty in the Attorney General's Office because of work violation.

Comrade Rafiq Amini, head of confidential documents and member of the party committee, should be given a warning which will be entered on his card and his release from his existing state post should be considered.

The party committee of the 10th Ward of Kabul city should take serious measures to remove the shortcomings and deficiencies in the work of the party primary organization of the Attorney General's Office as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Kill 25 Soviets in Loghar Province

LD181644 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 18, IRNA — Afghan mujahidin killed and wounded 25 Soviet troops and captured two Russian military advisers when they attacked a Soviet military convoy in Loghar Province last week. During the operations, carried out in Muhammad Agha governorate, mujahidin also destroyed three tanks and military personnel carriers.

Meanwhile, the Kabul regime warned mujahidin and local people that it would bomb residential quarters in the area if they did not release the two Soviet advisers.

Mujahidin on receiving the regime's warning put to death the two Soviet military advisers and refused to deliver their bodies as a result of which Afghan warplanes bombed residential areas in Qala-Ahmad, Qala-Shahi and Mazkin areas destroying many houses and martyring and wounding 14 civilians.

The joint Soviet-Afghan forces also abducted passengers of a bus which was en route to Loghar Province in order to force mujahidin to hand over the bodies of the dead Russians.

Local Tribal Leaders Sign Accord With Officials
BK190738 Hong Kong AFP in English
0724 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 19 (AFP) — Tribal leaders in a subdistrict of southeast Bangladesh have signed a peace accord with local officials aimed at halting rebel activities in the area, press reports said Wednesday.

Officials said it was the first such agreement between tribal leaders and the authorities aimed at combatting the Shanti Bahini tribal rebels who are active in the Chittagong Hill tracts region.

The *Bangladesh Observer* quoted the local officials as saying that they had reached an agreement with tribal elders in the Langdu Subdistrict to keep the area free from rebel activity and undertake development works.

Officials here described the move as "praiseworthy" and said they hoped the local initiative would encourage others in the region to follow.

The Shanti Bahini rebel group, led by Chakma Tribals, have been active in the rugged, hilly Chittagong Hill tracts bordering Burma and India since the early 1970's.

They are campaigning for autonomy and the expulsion from the region of about 200,000 Bengali-speaking Moslems who were resettled there from the overcrowded northern plains of Bangladesh.

According to estimates, up to 1,000 people have died in clashes between the rebels and government troops since the early 1970's.

Radio Commentary Views Tribal Refugees Issue
BK151359 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] About 6,000 Chakmas [tribal refugees] out of 29,928 have so far returned from the refugee camps of Tripura in India. More are coming back daily to their hearths and homes in Chittagong Hill tracts. After all, love for motherland is a unique trait of a man, and it belies all other instigated considerations. That is why the Chakmas, now in the Indian camps, have chosen to break all barriers to return home despite the reported provocations otherwise by the Indian Border Security Forces.

Some of these tribals of Bangladesh, misled as they are, have been trained in arms in different Indian camps. They are being forced to penetrate the Bangladesh border and make lightning raids on fellow Bangladeshis now living in the hilly regions of the country. As a result, hundreds of innocent and unarmed civilians, including women and children, lost their lives in what some Chakmas call Operation Genocide in the past few months.

Latest in the long and unfriendly tirade across the border against Bangladesh is a motivated campaign for a Sri Lanka-type of solution of the Chakma issue. A section of the Indian press has reportedly floated such wild ideas which can simply be termed as chauvinistic. It is indeed foolish to say that the ethnic Tamil issue in Jaffna and the so-called problem of Chakmas are the same in nature. In fact, the two issues are just (?diametrically) opposed.

The Tamils in Sri Lanka are growing numerically in strength to outnumber the native Sinhalese, so much so that the entire Jaffna Peninsula is now virtually a land of Tamils. Moreover, Jaffna is a natural abode of Tamils, as just across the 2-mile Palk Strait lies the Indian state of Tamil Nadu where about 50 million Indian Tamils live. It is quite likely that many of the Indian citizens have crossed over to Jaffna to swell the ranks of Tamils there to displace others, including the Muslims and the Sinhalese. The Lankan Tamils have been allowed to have their own educational system, which was instrumental in growing a certain sense of alienation from the mainstream Lankan life. In fact, they are fully bred up in the tradition of their ancestors in India and have practically nothing in common with others in Sri Lanka.

The Chakmas in Bangladesh, on the other hand, do not form even 1 percent of the population of Bangladesh. The question of their constituting a separate autonomous region like that of the Jaffna in Sri Lanka is ridiculous as anything. The Chakmas are the sons of the soil, sharing equally with the Muslims, the Hindus, the Christians, and the Buddhists the task of national reconstruction. Their ancestors lived in the hilly regions of Bangladesh for ages together, while they have been brought up imbued with the spirit of Bangladeshi nationalism and educated in the general education system now in vogue throughout the country. They have no ethnic, religious, or cultural links with those giving them temporary shelter in India. As a less developed community, they are being given preferential treatment in education and employment so that they come out of their self-imposed isolation to taste the fruits of modern life in an independent state. The government has in the meanwhile undertaken a massive development program in the Chittagong Hill tracts to improve the lot of the tribal people there.

The Chakma refugee problem, though very minor in nature, is undoubtedly an irritant between the two friendly nations. For the sake of good-neighborly relations and peace in the region, it should be resolved amicably as quickly as possible. On its part, Bangladesh has been very keen in availing itself of all necessary opportunities to settle it. It has repeatedly assured that the atmosphere is congenial for the return and peaceful living of Chakma refugees in the hill tracts. It now rests with India to allow them to return to their ancestral homes.

It is learned the commissioners of Khagrachari District in Bangladesh and South Tripura in India will meet shortly at Sabroom Town in India to discuss the issue. Some Chakma tribal leaders will accompany the district officials of Khagrachari and a number of refugee leaders will join the Indian officials at the meeting. Let us hope the meeting comes to a consensus over early return of the remaining Chakmas living in the camps in Tripura.

President, Parliament Comment on Colombo Bombing

BK181250 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Mr R. Venkataraman has conveyed his deep shock and distress at the attempt on Mr Jayewardene's life in Colombo. In a message to Mr Jayewardene, the president asked him to convey his concern to the prime minister, Mr Premadasa, and his Cabinet colleagues and wish them speedy recovery.

The Lok Sabha today condemned the bomb explosion in the Sri Lankan Parliament this morning and offered sympathies to the bereaved family and wished speedy recovery to the injured. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, informed the House of the incident and said the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, spoke to President Jayewardene immediately after hearing the news.

Members of the Rajya Sabha also expressed serious concern over the bomb blast.

Minister Bars Resumption of Popular Rule in Punjab

BK180533 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, today ruled out restoration of popular rule in Punjab at this juncture. He was replying to the debate on a bill which seeks to confer on the president the powers of the Punjab Assembly to make laws. The bill was later passed by the House. Mr Chidambaram asserted that president's rule has been able to bring about a degree of normalcy in the state administration. The police force has been motivated to fight the terrorists. The minister said dimensions of terrorism in Punjab have changed because of help from across the borders and also from abroad from where money, weapons, and advice are received. He said the government is not opposed to political initiatives, but moderates have withdrawn from the scene leaving no alternative but to fight terrorism.

Earlier, participating in the discussion, members expressed serious concern over terrorist activities in Punjab and some other areas and urged the government to take effective steps. While ruling party members contended that the center was left with no alternative but to impose president's rule in the state, some opposition members criticized the dismissal of the Barnala government and demanded its restoration.

Terrorists Ambush Police Party in Punjab

BK190340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] In Punjab, the driver of a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jeep was shot dead and two jawans [soldiers] injured when terrorists laid an ambush near a village under Bigikhind police station in Amritsar District last night. The CRPF patrol party returned the fire, but the terrorists managed to escape.

One terrorist escaping from the police custody was killed in an encounter with CRPF in Amritsar District last night. The police identified the man as Ajmer Singh.

8 Killed in Terrorist Attack, Blast in Punjab

BK190649 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] In Punjab, six people were gunned down and several wounded by terrorists at village (Mustapur) in Jullundur District last night. A police spokesman told our Jullundur correspondent this morning that more than 10 terrorists armed with sten guns came to the village in a truck and fired indiscriminately at the people attending a marriage ceremony. In another incident, a man and his 18-month-old son were killed in a bomb blast outside their house in Phagwara early this morning.

Congress-I Vice Presidential Candidate Nominated

BK180328 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] The Congress-I parliamentary board has selected the governor of Maharashtra, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, as the Congress-I candidate for the vice presidential election. The party general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, told newsmen in New Delhi that the decision was taken unanimously by the board at its meeting last night.

The prime minister earlier had a meeting with the opposition leaders on the choice of the vice presidential candidate. At the meeting, the choice had narrowed down to two names — Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma and the former chief justice of India, Mr P.N. Bhagwati. The opposition leaders agreed that either of the two chosen by the Congress parliamentary board will be acceptable to them. Today is the last date for filing of nominations. The election will be held on the 7th of next month.

Article Advocates 'Simla Agreement' With PRC

BK091017 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
31 Jul 87 p 11

[Bhabani Sen Gupta article: "Try a Simla Pact With China"]

[Text] As things stand now, it is difficult to visualise Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi take a bold positive initiative to weave a new relationship of neighbourly goodwill and cooperation with Pakistan and Sri Lanka. However, the Prime Minister has both the opportunity and the need to rapidly normalise India's relations with China. Opportunity, because during and since the fruitful stop-over in Beijing last month by Mr Narayan Dutt Tiwari, Chinese spokesmen have repeatedly expressed their desire to build Sino-Indian relations around the five principles of peaceful coexistence. From recent rhetoric of both Delhi and Beijing, it seems that neither believes that the admittedly complicated border dispute is or should be an insuperable barrier to across-the-board improvement of bilateral relations. Implicit in this shared sentiment is that while negotiations to resolve the border issue are kept moving, both governments make a deter-

mined effort to attain two cardinal objectives: first, prevent border incidents; and two, pace up the improvement of economic, trade, technological, cultural and informational relations.

India needs a breakthrough in its relations with China. The reasons are many, but four of them are compelling. In the South Asian neighbourhood, especially in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, China is seen — mistakenly perhaps — to have adopted a "tough posture" on the border issue in order to put pressure on India so that India's pressures on the two countries is partially relieved. It is not important whether China is actually leaning on India as a gesture of low-cost diplomatic help to Islamabad and Colombo. It is important that many Pakistanis and Sri Lankans and some Americans see China projecting itself in South Asian affairs as a heavy-weight thrown against India and for its smaller neighbours. It is entirely in India's interest to dispel this perception, and nothing will dispel it more effectively than a breakthrough in Sino-Indian relations.

The second big reason why a breakthrough is important is there is likely to be a leadership change in the Chinese Communist Party after its 13th Congress in October. I do not know how many in India are closely following the passionate, and often very complex, debates going on in China in preparation for the watershed congress. There are layers and layers in the huge mushroom of the current Chinese debate, but there is a broad dividing line between the so-called conservatives and the so-called reformers spanning the Politburo, the Central Committee and the 23 provincial committees. Deng Xiaoping and his followers will try to maintain the reformist line as much as they can, but Deng is not immortal, and he has already announced his intention to step down from "two-thirds of my responsibilities" after the congress. Since foreign policy and China's relations with the rest of the world are one of the major points of the deeply contentious national debate, it is important that Delhi plants on the Chinese imagination before October that it is genuinely interested in a horizontal improvement in Sino-Indian relationship that would adequately contain the potentially explosive border dispute.

Thirdly, significant changes are infiltrating the superpower relationship despite the unabated but gradually muted anti-Soviet rhetorical flourishes of the Reagan administration and a strong segment of the American foreign policy elite. It will not be surprising if the US and the USSR are seen to be working together not only to build the first blocks of a new arms control and disarmament regime but also to reduce tensions and prevent wider conflicts in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East. For 15 years has China basked in the strategic glow of its 1972 breakthrough with the United States. The pattern of the triangular US-USSR relationship has been changing slowly since 1985. America's on-going economic problems, with a great recession looming on the horizon according to several economic experts, gradually diminish the material incentives of the post-1972 Sino-US relations. This may well be the crucial time when the Chinese leaders, especially those who are coming up to the forefront of decision-making, are in a mood to weigh the pros and cons of acquiring new pastures of international co-operation.

Finally, it should be plain to decision-makers in Delhi that India just cannot play its legitimate role in the exciting international change that is in the offing as long as it is chained down to its conflictual relationships with China and Pakistan.

Liberated from these two debilitating shackles, India can bring its hard-earned political, economic and military strength to bear upon a more vigorous, more forward-looking and more innovative international role. It may be easier to liberate ourselves from the shackles of the Sino-Indian deadlock than from the stalemate with Pakistan since neither superpower is involved in the Sino-Indian bilateral relations, and both, for their own different reasons, would welcome better relations between Asia's two largest nations.

Sentiments, wishes, sentences and radiowaves are not enough to herald a breakthrough in relations between India and China. What is needed is a formal framework defining agreed and shared objectives, providing the tracks that are to be pursued to build a new relationship, and a formal mechanism that can adequately contain the border problem. More important, there has to be something happening between the two that will capture the world's imagination and show how two great and large powers in Asia can live and work together for mutually desirable goals despite a difficult and emotive border dispute existing between them. This single act will be a major contribution to a less conflicted and more integrated world what is or should be the aim of all statesmen. Its impact will be no less than that of the 1955 Panchsheel agreement between India and China.

If the Prime Minister offers a "Simla Agreement" to China, its purpose will be principally threefold. First, to bind the two countries to exclusively peaceful bilateral means to resolve the border issue. Secondly, to provide for formalised mechanism for periodical political consultations between the two countries at the level of foreign ministers and prime ministers, on bilateral and multilateral issues. Thirdly, to build the framework of enlarging bilateral co-operation in economic, trade, technological, informational and cultural fields.

It will not tax the cerebral competence of the Indian foreign office to draft an agreement that can be the basis of negotiations with China. A preamble that would take into account the fundamentals of the Indian position on the border (that it is the creation of treaties and conventions) and the Chinese position (that it is a left-over of imperialist rule in our part of Asia) should massage both national egos.

The first articles of the proposed treaty would commit the two countries to: 1) seek a settlement of the border issue entirely and exclusively through peaceful means; 2) conduct continuing negotiation at official and ministerial levels; 3) preserve the status quo without prejudice to each party's claims and positions; 4) jointly demarcate the lines of control with state-of-the art photographic and cartographic means once again without compromising either country's claims and positions; and 5) create mutual trust and confidence that is essential for a final settlement of the border dispute through mutual give and take.

The next cluster of Articles would commit the two countries to build up their bilateral relations in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence, not to make war on one another nor to allow third parties the facilities of its territory to

attack either country, not to object one another to a nuclear first strike, and to work together to promote regional co-operation in Asia, especially in the Persian gulf, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

In the rest of the proposed treaty, the two countries would agree to set up a joint commission with appropriate sub-commissions to promote economic, trade, technological, informational and cultural relations. There should be a clear provision for an annual meeting of the prime ministers of India and China to review bilateral and multilateral issues and formulate agreed positions.

Public opinion in India will welcome this kind of a treaty between India and China. Informal, cautious soundings at the United Nations and in Washington DC encourage this analyst to believe that the Chinese leadership will respond positively to an Indian initiative of the nature suggested above. It will be at par with Mrs Gandhi's offer of a treaty of peace and friendship to Pakistan together with the Pakistani offer of a no-war pact to India. The question is whether the prime minister can bring himself to take a bold innovative step in an area which he can hardly leave to good words and chance.

STATESMAN Says U.S. Aid To Pakistan in Jeopardy

BK120915 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Aug 87 p 8

[Editorial: "Message for Pakistan"]

[Text] Any hope that Islamabad might have entertained of the visit by the U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs, Mr Michael Armacost, defusing the renewed controversy over its nuclear programme has been belied by the latest stand of the U.S. House of Representatives. In joining the Senate to demand that aid to Pakistan should be suspended, the House has confirmed the deep suspicion with which Capitol Hill views the real purpose of the secret plant at Kahuta. In addition, Pakistan's abrupt rejection of the American suggestion to allow on-site inspection of its nuclear establishments is likely further to harden opinion in the United States against continuing the aid programme. This disapproval is to be contrasted with the hopeful note on which Mr Armacost's visit started when he suggested that the "folks back home may have rushed to judgment" in the case of the Pakistani-Canadian who allegedly tried to smuggle out a kind of special steel used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. On the face of it, Mr Armacost's remark seemed to uphold Islamabad's claim that the entire affair relating to the smuggling was "a plot...by Soviet agents seeking to damage relations between Pakistan and the United States." His views were not all that surprising, however, because even before he left Washington, the under secretary had voiced the Reagan administration's determination to maintain close ties with Pakistan.

If doubts about his mission had nevertheless arisen, it was because of the three-month "freeze" on the aid programme to Pakistan recommended earlier by a U.S. Congressional committee perturbed over the smuggling attempt. Its decision, which provoked a sharp response from Islamabad, may have been influenced by an earlier Pakistani attempt to procure a special variety of switches used in the detonation of nuclear weapons. Although Pakistan's nuclear programme has been marked from the start by such cloak-and-dagger activity, the latest controversy obviously signifies a distinct setback in relations between the two countries. Indeed, it is clear that the "illusion" about making the bomb which General Ziaul Haq once claimed was intended to keep India "off-balance", has begun to wear thin in the eyes of a not inconsiderable section on Capitol Hill. As the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee pointed out, the U.S. Government's "record of accepting their lies...has obviously sent a wrong message".

But whatever may be the misgivings among American Congressmen, the Reagan administration's perception of Pakistan's strategic importance clearly rules out any possibility of a serious and prolonged estrangement. As the earlier waiving of the Symington Amendment indicated, the United States will not easily be deterred from keeping Pakistan firmly on its side. The latest rumpus, which persuaded the Administration to despatch Mr Armacost, was important in the sense that it followed additional and almost irrefutable evidence of Pakistan's determination to acquire nuclear weapons capability. But the visit was apparently intended not so much to discover the truth as to soothe outraged feelings on Capitol Hill and to reassure Pakistan that all was well. But despite the verdict of the Senate and the House, the U.S. Administration will probably still try to convince Congressmen that continued suspension of the aid programme will unnecessarily antagonize a close friend who serves the United States' strategic interests well in a troubled part of the world.

Attack on Liberian Tanker Called 'Suspicious'

LD182235 Tehran IRNA in English 2232 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) announced here early Wednesday that Iran considers the Tuesday attack on a Liberian ship in the Gulf of Oman as "a suspicious movement aimed at creating tension in regional waters".

The spokesman stressed that the attack on the Liberian ship was carried out by those who intended to escalate tension in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has announced time and again that as long as the Iraqi regime refrains from attackng ships, Iran will not embark on retaliatory measures, the W.I.H. spokesman said.

Minesweepers Warn Foreign Vessels To Keep Distance

NC190758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Minesweepers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces naval units continued operations with full force yesterday afternoon amid the extensive presence of foreign ships and aircraft. These minesweepers warned the foreign vessels to keep their distance at specified limits.

According to a report from the operational area, while the Iranian minesweepers were searching the danger zone in the waters of Al-Fujayrah port at 1700 yesterday, some U.S. and French warships and aircraft tried to approach the Iranian vessels. In addition, two French Super Etendards flew over the Iranian Navy's operational area at a high altitude and at great speed. The pilots of these airplanes contacted their command, saying that the overflight was accidental. The Super Etendards encountered the defense readiness of the Iranian warships and fled after a stern warning.

A U.S. fighter plane and a (PCT) reconnaissance plane circled the Iranian minesweepers at a high altitude. These planes moved out of the area after a warning from the Iranian ships and before they could disturb the minesweeping operations.

The overflights occurred at the same time French and U.S. warships and destroyers were observing the Iranian units' operations. Operationally, Iran's warships were on full war alert. Their combat readiness and strength were such that the U.S. and French warships stayed clear of the Iranian units after being warned not to enter the operational area. During this period, Iranian minesweeping helicopters carried out flights with unprecedented valor and expertise in attempting to locate mines.

The report adds: An Omani (Scan-1) plane, which tried to approach the Iranian minesweeping units, also left the area after a stern warning. Similarly, last evening, a U.S. civilian helicopter carrying foreign correspondents repeatedly asked the Iranian warships over the international circuit for permission to film and report on the minesweeping operations. The request was refused.

The confidence and capability of the minesweeping units' personnel, especially the operation's commander and the unit and warship commanders, in the minesweeping activities and in preventing the unwarranted presence of foreign military units in the Gulf of Oman during these operations were truly remarkable.

Karrubi Returns From Saudi Arabia 18 Aug

LD181926 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni's representative and head of Iranian hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, returned home Tuesday afternoon, following a provocative 24 hour deadline set by the Saudi regime for his departure from Saudi Arabia.

Interviewed by IRNA at the airport, Karrubi said that Saudi Government asked him in a written message to leave Saudi soil and that he was escorted by the Saudi police to Jeddah Airport.

The Saudi regime had shamefacedly announced in Riyadh today that Karrubi left for Iran of his will in accordance with the return schedule for Iranian pilgrims.

"My residence in Mecca and Jeddah was under siege by Saudi police and Army, following their massacre of hajj pilgrims on 31 July," said Karrubi, who was warmly welcomed at the airport by head of Imam Khomeyni's bureau Hojjat ol-Eslam Tavassoli, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and several Cabinet ministers.

The hojjat ol-eslam said he used to visit Medina every year after the hajj ceremony but this year the Saudi regime banned him from going to this holy city. "Representatives of the Mecca governor handed a letter to my staff, according to which I was forced to leave the city," Karrubi said, noting that Saudi agents did not allow him to meet Iranian pilgrims during his stay in Mecca and Jeddah.

He categorically refuted Saudi claims that he had returned home of his own will, and said he was officially informed that he must leave Saudi soil within 24 hours. Furthermore, the hojjat ol-eslam explained how Saudi police strafed pilgrims in Friday's tragic rally despite previous assurances given by them for holding the antipathy towards pagans rally in Mecca. Karrubi is to elaborate on the catastrophe in a press conference to be held on Thursday, August 20.

Head of the Hajj and Awqaf Organisation Hojjat ol-Eslam Imam Jamarani and several members of the Iranian hajj delegation in Saudi Arabia also returned here along with Karrubi.

Comments on Return

NC190711 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Mr Mehdi Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, accompanied by Imam Jamarani, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Hajj and Endowments Organization and Charitable Affairs, returned to Tehran from holy Mecca last night, He was met by Messrs Tavassoli and Ansari, the imam's representatives; Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn

Musavi; other ministers; and presidential, civilian, and military representatives.

The imam's representative and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims spoke about the crimes of the American Saudi regime in an interview with our correspondent at Mehrabad International Airport.

[Begin recording][Karrubi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With regard to the hajj, I want to say that in the first phase, the people's sentiments toward the Islamic revolution, the Imam's guidance, and the immense attention which the hajj venue and events attracted were extraordinary. At the Medina march and the two sessions of the Komel prayers, especially the second one, half of those attending were non-Iranian Muslims. The feelings they expressed for us, their presence at the march, and the martyrs they sacrificed in the incident are all indications that the climax of the revolution was a focus of the people's attention with regard to the political aspects of the hajj. According to the imam, these political (?manifestations) of the hajj, the marches, demonstrations, and political activities, were really extraordinary.

In the second phase, however, a heart-rending incident took place as a result of the presence of these people. The [words indistinct] Saudis could not control the presence of the people in the marches, in the Komel prayers, in their (?mission), and in the expression of their emotions. However, this [words indistinct] brought about this major calamity, and many of our dear compatriots and other Muslims were martyred.

What I want to say that is of value is that the Mecca incident is connected to all events in the region — to the Persian Gulf, to the negative actions of the area's reactionaries, to negative U.S. acts, and to the pressure exerted by the United States on the Saudis, which caused the incident that cost so many lives of our compatriots. Their troublemaking, brutality, malice, villainy, and [passage indistinct], and our compatriots were cruelly martyred. Our people did not anticipate such a thing and were not prepared for any violence. They were obedient, carrying out the imam's decree, and did not wish to (?clash). They included selfless men and women who were in the forefront and who were attacked after they had been surrounded. This was a major catastrophe; many were martyred.

The important thing is the results of the Saudis' (?action). They tried to suppress political activity in Mecca and the consequences were contrary to their expectations, just as the imam said in his message. Hundreds of thousands witnessed these brutal and base actions. Each of them will relate the details in their respective countries, and politically all of [words indistinct].

The (?Arab) people themselves [words indistinct] did not withhold any assistance, except those affiliated with the government. Many people in Mecca were utterly ashamed of the incident and announced their sympathy and solidarity with us.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Karrubi, most of the martyrs transferred to Tehran died from bullets fired by the Saudi police. However, the Saudi authorities claim that not one bullet was fired. Can you explain this?

[Karrubi] I wish to repeat, as I said earlier, that the Saudi regime was lying from the outset and was terribly confused about what to do. There was a large crowd of people in the streets on the 6th of Dhu al-Hijjah [lunar month]. The sound of bullets being fired echoed throughout the town. Scores of people were carrying bodies and running back and forth. Nine Palestinians were martyred by bullets. The whole affair was amazingly clear; all were aware of it. There are injured ones there now, suffering from gunshot wounds that have become septic. The whole affair is quite clear and [words indistinct] and no one can deny it. With all the prejudice the media and news agencies have shown against the revolution, they (?admitted) that shooting had taken place and some were martyred and...[recording ends with Karrubi in mid-sentence]

Mr Karrubi referred to the fact that the Saudi regime had officially asked him to leave Saudi Arabia, adding that the regime did not content itself with this official notice but also besieged the Islamic Republic of Iran's consulate in Jeddah with a massive police force, even preventing the exit and entry of consulate employees. Mr Karrubi vehemently denied the Saudi authorities' allegations that he had left of his own accord.

Kamal Kharrazi Interviewed by DER SPIEGEL
DW180701 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
17 Aug 87 pp 94-99

[Interview with Kamal Kharrazi, member of the Iranian Supreme Defense Council, by correspondents Siegesmund von Ilsemann and Bernd Doerler at the Iranian Embassy in Bonn; date not given]

[Text] *Der Spiegel*: Mr Kharrazi, Ayatollah Khomeyni has called upon the Iranians to knock out the Americans' teeth. Your Revolution Guards are threatening to turn the Persian Gulf into a "U.S. graveyard," although the United States is currently escorting reflagged tankers through the Gulf without being hindered. Is your government bending to the superpower?

Kharrazi: You cannot say that. The first escort had problems and they will continue.

Der Spiegel: Did the U.S. tanker *Bridgeton* hit an Iranian mine?

Kharrazi: That cannot be stated with certainty. Some say it was a Russian mine, others say it was Iranian. It may have been an Iraqi one.

Der Spiegel: Did the *Texaco Carribean* supertanker hit an Iranian mine in the Gulf of Oman?

Kharrazi: Why could it not have been planted by the Americans?

Der Spiegel: In that case, Tehran really ought to strike back, because the tanker carried Iranian crude oil. Besides, the Iraqis have heavily raided Iranian oil facilities again after a 25-day hiatus.

Kharrazi: We will retaliate when our ships and our facilities in the Persian Gulf are attacked. This time targets in the country's interior were hit. We responded with counterattacks on Zubayr and and Umm Qasr.

Der Spiegel: On the whole, the impression is being conveyed that you are avoiding any escalation of war in the Gulf.

Kharrazi: We distinguish between the war in the Persian Gulf and the war on the Iraq and Iran border. We believe that attacks in the Persian Gulf should be halted. Security must be guaranteed there. It is the Iraqis and the Americans who make shipping insecure in the Persian Gulf.

Der Spiegel: Who designed these precisely adjusted military reactions by your side? Was it Ayatollah Khomeyni himself, or was it the Supreme Defense Council?

Kharrazi: Policy is made within the Supreme Defense Council. Its implementation is determined by the Supreme Command of all forces. I am a member of both. However, to understand our leadership structure, one must comprehend the relationship between our people and its leadership.

Der Spiegel: But what is the connection between the people and the military leadership?

Kharrazi: Those responsible cannot make any decision without the support of the people. Only what the mass of people desire can be implemented.

Der Spiegel: What role does the imam play in the Supreme Defense Council? Does he appear personally? Does he issue orders in written form?

Kharrazi: According to the Constitution, the imam is the supreme commander of the forces. Anytime we want advice, we ask him. What he orders is done.

Der Spiegel: How often do you need his advice?

Kharrazi: We have permanent contact with him. Such consultations can take place every week or daily, sometimes even several times a day, depending on what needs a decision.

Der Spiegel: When did you last see Khomeyni?

Kharrazi: Three months ago.

Der Spiegel: How was he?

Kharrazi: He is healthy. It can be seen from his general behavior that he feels well and is not sick.

Der Spiegel: Is he still belligerent?

Kharrazi: No one in Iran wants war. We need a permanent peace as soon as possible. To achieve peace, we must combat the war's instigator and punish him.

Der Spiegel: Iraq's President Saddam Husayn?

Kharrazi: Yes. Your Foreign Minister Genscher has also determined that Saddam Husayn started that war. Only if he and his Ba'th Party followers are punished can a permanent peace be secured.

Der Spiegel: But who is expected to punish Saddam Husayn?

Kharrazi: We must go on fighting and punish him ourselves because he is not being punished by international bodies.

Der Spiegel: Do you want him to hang?

Kharrazi: We do not want to dictate the way he is to be punished. If the United Nations wants to act, then it should first condemn him as an aggressor and subsequently have a court decide.

Der Spiegel: Your claim to punishment seems primarily to be satisfying Khomeyni's thirst for revenge. Does that justify a whole generation's death, slaughtered on the battlefield?

Kharrazi: Freedom makes it worthwhile. Peace and the building of the future are goals for the people in their resistance and self-defense.

Der Spiegel: But your freedom is not endangered at all. Iraq has been prepared for an immediate cease-fire for a long time.

Kharrazi: We cannot trust Saddam Husayn. He did not stick to the agreement that he made with us in 1975. That Iraqi will try to attack us again as soon as he can.

Der Spiegel: So only his physical destruction remains?

Kharrazi: That regime must be physically eliminated either by international bodies or by us, as was done with Nazism.

Der Spiegel: So you want a Nuremberg trial against Baghdad's Ba'thists?

Kharrazi: Yes.

Der Spiegel: Is Saddam Husayn like a Hitler to you?

Kharrazi: Exactly. We are the victims of a new Hitler.

Der Spiegel: However, the victim is more active than the culprit. In the meantime, Tehran is pursuing expansionist goals.

Kharrazi: Our policy is not expansionist. We said from the very beginning that we do not claim one single kilometer of Arab soil. We have no territorial claims to Iraq. Iraq belongs to the Iraqis.

Der Spiegel: Why then the death of hundreds of thousands of people?

Kharrazi: Why did millions of people die in World War II? Was not the peace and freedom achieved worth it?

Der Spiegel: Your war has already lasted longer than World War II. What have you achieved in 7 years?

Kharrazi: We have proved our strength, our ability to endure this for so long, and our ideals and principles.

Der Spiegel: You can hold out until you win or die. People are becoming increasingly weary of war. Do you really believe that the broad masses approve of the decisions of your war leaders?

Kharrazi: What we do is the wish of our people. We cannot force anything on them. They bravely endure difficulties and suffering to defend their country.

Der Spiegel: No wonder, in view of the perfectly working control apparatus. Your more-than-full prisons and the human rights violations of which Iran has been proved guilty are not signs of democracy. How do you know in what way the people would express themselves if they could?

Kharrazi: Did you see the mass demonstrations of millions of people on Iran's streets and in Iran's towns? What do you mean by control?

Der Spiegel: The millions protested only because of the Iranian pilgrims killed in Mecca.

Kharrazi: Mecca was a reason, but the people do not separate the Mecca events from developments in the Persian Gulf or the war against Iraq.

Der Spiegel: Your war is apparently so popular that tens of thousands of men eligible for the draft flee to foreign countries, and wealthy Iranians are trying and succeeding in sparing their children from military service.

Kharrazi: We do not argue that war is good. We also know that there are people in Iran who prefer to live comfortably and who do not want to fight for freedom. They exploit every opportunity to go abroad, a consequence of our freedom of movement. However, that does not apply to the masses of people.

Der Spiegel: They do not have the contacts or the money.

Kharrazi: Not because of that, but because the masses, the millions of demonstrating people, decide our policy. After 7 years of war, the people are still willing to go to the front.

Der Spiegel: Do you have children?

Kharrazi: Yes, two sons.

Der Spiegel: Are both of them eligible to go to the front?

Kharrazi: No, they are just 4 and 9 years old. I hope the war will be over by the time they are eligible.

Der Spiegel: How many Iranians have been killed in the war up to now?

Kharrazi: There are no official statistics.

Der Spiegel: You do not count your dead?

Kharrazi: There are no published statistics. They are war secrets.

Der Spiegel: Are you afraid of your people's reaction if the figures were known?

Kharrazi: No. We just do not want to give additional information to the other side. That is not done in war. Other countries do not do it either.

Der Spiegel: You certainly know the exact figure. Can you still sleep well?

Kharrazi: He who believes in his cause can sleep well.

Der Spiegel: Your Revolution Guards do not merely fight the archenemy Saddam Husayn. In the Lebanese Al-Biqa' valley, Pasdaran Hizballah militia members are trained to fight on the side of south Lebanon against the militia supported by Israel. That is exactly the export of revolution that many Arabs fear.

Kharrazi: Lebnaese are fighting there. Our people train them. We render cultural aid.

Der Spiegel: Is training with a Kalashnikov submachine gun your cultural contribution?

Kharrazi: I speak not only of cultural training, but also of military training. The Pasdaran pass their military experience on to those who want it.

Der Spiegel: Is Iran not overextending itself that way? War at its frontier, war in the Gulf, confrontation with a superpower, Lebanon an additional theater, and now also Mecca — if all that does not create political problems for you, you will hardly be able to handle it economically.

Kharrazi: The others force all these burdens on us. The war was forced upon us. The Americans increased tension in the Gulf. In Mecca our enemies plotted against us. We can only surrender or resist. We decided to resist.

Der Spiegel: You will obviously stop at nothing. How else can you explain that you yourself have been making arms deals with your greatest enemies, the United States and Zionist Israel?

Kharrazi: We have made no direct arms deals with Israel. The Americans supplied us. The weapons are made in the United States. We did not know that Israel was involved. Once we noticed that 18 missiles had Israeli writing on them, we sent them back.

Der Spiegel: Because the Israelis intended to provide you with obsolete weapons?

Kharrazi: We sent them back because they came from Israel. In our opinion, this was a plot. Washington intended to play Israel's participation off against us some day.

Der Spiegel: That sounds like an excuse for a lack of scruples.

Kharrazi: If the Americans really planned to supply us with weapons, why did they do so via Israel?

Der Spiegel: But all parties concerned knew that Israelis were involved.

Kharrazi: Who knew that? We were one of the parties, and we knew nothing about it. There were rumors in the press, but there was no evidence. Only after the McFarlane story became public did we learn that the Israelis were involved.

Der Spiegel: Does that mean that your government learned about the arms deal only after the press reported it?

Kharrazi: We had to deal with arms dealers. They did not tell us where they actually got the weapons. They always talked about the United States. For that very reason they brought McFarlane to Tehran. We had no reason to mistrust them.

Der Spiegel: And trustingly, you intended to put the hostages into those arms dealers' hands?

Kharrazi: The hostage problem is a different case.

Der Spiegel: Does that mean that the hostages were not at your disposal?

Kharrazi: The arms dealers told us: The Americans want to improve relations with you and deliver weapons if you have any influence in arranging the release of the hostages.

Der Spiegel: You still have influence in Lebanon. Your parliamentary spokesman Hashemi-Rafsanjani recently reaffirmed that you have contacts with the Hizballah militia who hold two Germans captive.

Kharrazi: We have contacts with Hizballah. However, that does not mean that the hostages are in Hizballah's hands. There are very different groupings in Lebanon. We have opportunities to influence...

Der Spiegel: ...Via your cultural contacts?

Kharrazi: ...It is a heart-felt impact. It could be that we demand something here today and the masses in Lebanon react to it.

Der Spiegel: Those hearts obviously do not react to the fate of innocent hostages.

Kharrazi: There are other hearts that do not react to the fate of the masses in Lebanon.

Der Spiegel: Do you think it impossible that hostages from the West who were kidnapped in Lebanon are or were in Tehran?

Kharrazi: There is no necessity at all for the American hostages to be in Tehran. The Lebanese have taken hostages. They are their hostages.

Der Spiegel: Does "no necessity" mean that the hostages are within direct reach in Beirut, too?

Kharrazi: If we want to, we can bring our influence to bear on our supporters in Beirut. That is why there is no necessity at all for us to interfere in the taking of hostages.

Der Spiegel: Unless weapons are concerned.

Kharrazi: We have asked the Americans that our weapons...

Der Spiegel: That the Shah ordered...

Kharrazi: ...be released. If that happens, we will use the Friday prayer sermons to ask the Lebanese to release the U.S. hostages.

Der Spiegel: Was that strange deal planned by the Supreme Defense Council, or was it a solo attempt by the moderate Iranian faction that Ronald Reagan mentioned?

Kharrazi: No decision was made by any loners. There was agreement among us.

Der Spiegel: In your Supreme Defense Council?

Kharrazi: Yes. We have always discussed how to get weapons. We buy them everywhere, except in Israel and South Africa. Because our troops are mainly equipped with U.S. materiel, there were no scruples about buying weapons from the Americans.

Der Spiegel: U.S. weapons are everywhere on the world market. Why does Tehran have to buy them just from the "Great Satan?"

Kharrazi: There are weapons that we can only get with American help. That is, so to speak, the beauty of our policy — that we get their weapons and still fight them ideologically.

Der Spiegel: Without U.S. weapons you cannot fight against America. You must be terribly frightened that the Americans will succeed in enforcing an arms embargo at the United Nations.

Kharrazi: There might be restrictions, but we will not be terribly frightened. There is enough corruption in the world so that we will be able to satisfy our weapons requirements in the future.

Der Spiegel: Does it not tarnish your Islamic moral code that the victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution in that case would be based on corruption?

Kharrazi: It is corruption in their apparatus, not ours. There are people who act against their government's interests for the sake of their private advantage. That corruption is not directed against us.

Der Spiegel: International law prohibits attacks like the Iranian retaliatory actions against ships from third countries. Iraqi attacks against your ships and oil installations, however, are allowed — they are directed against the enemy.

Kharrazi: Do you consider it international law that one must

not react if a party to war is supported by others, for instance by Kuwait?

Der Spiegel: Kuwait has not entered the war, has not sent troops, has not taken combat action. In addition, ships from other countries have become victims of Iranian attacks.

Kharrazi: Kuwait, as a matter of fact, has interefered in the war. Kuwaiti harbors have been controlled by the Iraqis. They handle the Iraqi supplies. Baghdad receives money from Kuwait.

Der Spiegel: Does that apply to the other Gulf countries, too?

Kharrazi: Kuwait has been rendering direct and open help. Saudi Arabia has also helped, but not so openly. So far we have been generous and tolerated it.

Der Spiegel: Is the generosity now over?

Kharrazi: That depends on what the Kuwaitis do. If they continue to support the Iraqis directly, we will have to respond.

Der Spiegel: With an attack?

Kharrazi: The Iraqi attacks in the Persian Gulf are launched across Kuwaiti airspace. If that continues, Kuwait will be a war participant. We have said that if the Iraqis resume those attacks, we will bomb Kuwaiti installations.

Der Spiegel: Have you ever talked with the Americans about the war and the improvement of U.S.-Iranian relations?

Kharrazi: Not only have I not done that, but no responsible person in Iran has held direct negotiations with the Americans.

Der Spiegel: Revolutionary unity is revealing cracks. Statements by Ayatollah Montazeri, the Khomeyni successor designate, and Majlis spokesman Hashemi-Rafsanjani indicate war weariness even among the religious leaders.

Kharrazi: What you are saying about differing opinions in Iran is based on a false analysis of the Iranian situation. Single facts are given an isolated assessment without taking into consideration the relationship between the responsible persons and the people. What our leaders say mostly reflects our people's desires, as I said before. Therefore, the West should correct its opinion about Iranian conditions. The West believes that our people want war, that they want to make their own lives difficult, that they do not want peace. Believe me, our people prefer to die in peace, not in war.

Der Speigel: The fanatic suicide attacks by Revolution Guards do not really give that impression. For them, apparently, there is nothing more beautiful than to die for Khomeyni.

Kharrazi: It goes without saying that they are not persons committing suicide. We call them martyrs.

Der Spiegel: The result is the same. Do you have those Kamikaze fighters under control? Is it impossible for such a unit suddenly and arbitrarily to attack a U.S. frigate in the Gulf with a speedboat and barrels of dynamite?

Kharrazi: Everything is under control. We have the apparatus where everything is running in order. Do not worry about that.

Der Spiegel: That sounds really Prussian. Does the fact that a prominent member of the Supreme Defense Council is on a propaganda tour in the West mean that Tehran is not planning military actions for the time being? Or is your Bonn visit supposed to lull the United States into a false sense of security?

Kharrazi: Anything is possible.

Der Spiegel: Mr Kharrazi, we thank you for this interview.

Britain To 'Investigate' Muslim Community

LD181643 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] London, Aug. 17, IRNA — A high priority inquiry into the impact and influence of Britain's two million strong Muslim community is to be investigated by the British Government.

The inquiry is waiting formal approval from Home Secretary Douglas Hurd and will examine all aspects of the Muslim community, the second largest in any Christian European country. The main study is expected to be carried out in 1988, with preliminary work set for this year.

The unusual move, the first into the religious persuasions of its ethnic minorities, comes at a time when Islam has been recognised as the fastest growing and most dynamic religion in the U.K. with more and more Muslims seen taking an increasingly public stance.

The government is thought to be particularly wary about an Islamic resurgence in U.K. in the wake of a worldwide revival in Islamic principles, and how local Muslims are likely to react when certain foreign policy decisions effect Muslim countries.

Muslim observers suggest that the normal social control agencies, such as education and the media, have failed in their attempts to subvert the major influence of Islamic tenets and stem the most dramatic rise of Islamic revivalism.

Radio Analyzes Soviet Policy in Gulf Region

LD182232 Tehran International Service in Persian 1545 GMT 18 Aug 87

["Historical-Political Review" from the "Familiar Voice" program]

[Excerpts] In this week's special political report, which you will hear in a few moments, we will discuss the subject of Soviet policy in the Persian Gulf. Numerous factors that have been considered by the Kremlin in formulating their Gulf policy will be reviewed and commented upon in this special report. We now draw your attention to this political survey.

Although the Kremlin spokesmen have tried to refrain from clear and explicit statements on Persian Gulf problems, there is no doubt that these problems are of special interest to the Soviet Foreign Ministry and regarded as one of the most important and sensitive areas.

Factors and currents, which have always been instrumental in shaping the political currents of this region, have brought about a very complicated situation. This problem did not evolve solely in the past year, although during the last few years it has gradually intensified in a strange way.

For the Soviet Union and its policymakers, the complicated situation has been interwoven with other problems stemming from the global and regional interests of the Russians. In general, this has created a difficult puzzle.

We cannot deny the fact that Soviet global diplomacy in other regions related to the Persian Gulf, especially those nearby, has had an important impact on the Kremlin's policy-making on the Gulf. The obvious example of this is the sensitive relationship which the Soviet Union has tried to maintain over the long years with the countries of the Indian subcontinent, as well as with the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf, relations which it tries to maintain at a friendly level.

In its Persian Gulf policy, the Soviet Union has had to pay attention to this point, although, according to a general assessment, its policy has been influenced by other pressures and factors.

In view of the complexity of the situation that creates problems for the Russians in adopting and implementing a suitable policy on the Persian Gulf, the first factor meriting attention is the situation in the Indian subcontinent and the Soviet Union's relations with the countries of this region, particularly India. The Soviet Union fully agrees with India's point of view that the problems of the Persian Gulf are closely related to the situation in the Indian Ocean. The Soviet Union also agrees that the security of the Persian Gulf sealanes depends on the security and stability of the Indian Ocean. [passage omitted]

India fears that tension in the Indian Ocean may lead to the appearance of American and Russian fleets in the region. This may then encourage them to seek new coastal bases — bases for stock-piling weapons. Therefore, tension must be shifted from the waters of the Indian Ocean to the coastal countries, India's neighbors. [passage omitted]

India fears the Persian Gulf situation may lead to a new military-political race in the subcontinent, between India and her neighbors. Historic enmities existing in this region mean that an arms race could lead to new regional rivalries and wars. Soviet officials consider this point to be very important, particularly as they are willing to maintain their friendly ties with Delhi, even though the cost is high. This position is one of the pillars of the Kremlin policy in the Persian Gulf. However, the Soviet Union always sees the U.S. presence in the Diego Garcia base as a threat. [passage omitted]

Although the Soviet Union is eager to acquire similar facilities, it is strongly inhibited from establishing a base in the Indian Ocean by its friends, primarily India. For this reason, Soviet projects in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf constantly stress that there must be no foreign bases there. This position has satisfied India and other countries, and also creates a balance between the USSR and the Americans. This second objective is more important to the Russians.

In addition to this important factor, which affects any kind of Soviet project in the Persian Gulf, the Kremlin policy-makers must be careful not to neglect historical backgrounds and have factored them into their political calculations. This means going back many years,even to Tsarist Russia. As a telling example in this connection, one can mention Peter the Great's political will. One of the most influential tsars, Peter advised his heirs in his will to try at all costs to acquire a foothold in the Persian Gulf in order to establish a link with the warm waters of the world. [passage omitted]

This attitude has left an impact on the way the Persian Gulf littoral states form their relationship with the USSR; they have had to be doubly cautious. In other words, the USSR Foreign Ministry is forced to pay a great deal of attention to the historic fears of the Persian Gulf littoral states. [passage omitted]

To remove such fears in the international arena, particularly in the wars between the Arabs and the Zionist regime, the Soviet Union has backed the Arab authorities. The Soviets have always supported all plans submitted by the Arabs for solving the Mideast problem. This support has at times been unofficial. For instance, the Soviet Union unofficially supported Fahd's plan in Geneva. The Soviets did not mention the Fahd plan but they confirmed its contents. Meanwhile, the Soviets have slowed down their propaganda against Arab allies of the United States. Indeed, on some occasions the Soviets have completely halted such propaganda. This new policy has not been in existence for long. It is only during the last few years that the Kremlin has adopted such a policy. Moscow is trying to show her friendliness to the Arab countries, especially the littoral states of the Persian Gulf, rather than taking an antagonistic position against them. The doctrine of dividing the Arabs into two camps — one progressive and the other reactionary — has no place in the Soviet Union's existing and declared policy. [passage omitted]

Indeed, the Soviet Union intends to use Kuwait as a bridge to establish relations with the littoral states of the Persian Gulf. Some time ago, the representative of Kuwait at the Gulf Cooperation Council talked at length to council members, suggesting that they undergo a basic review of their policies toward the Soviet Union. The Kuwait reporesentative also suggested that they seriously assess the question of establishing relations with the Soviet Union. So far the council has not issued an official statement, but there has been some progress in the relations of its members with the Kremlin. During the past 2 years, the Soviet Union has made important political investments in order to eliminate the fear of the Saudi Arabian authorities. There are also many behind-the-scenes contacts between the officials of the two countries, although the Soviet Union appears to be facing a long and difficult road. [passage omitted]

Two invariable factors exist in the framework of the policy which the Soviet Union has drawn up for the Persian Gulf — two invariable factors for both the United States and the Soviet Union. The Kremlin believes that the two sides must officially recognize these invariables and organize their activities around them. The first invariable that has been linked to the vital interests of Washington and Moscow is the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf for the Kremlin and Soviet territorial security. According to the USSR, the movement of the U.S. fleet, armed with nuclear weapons, in the Persian Gulf has posed a very serious threat to the southern and central regions of the Soviet Union. Therefore, for the Soviet Union, the security of the Persian Gulf is part of its program to provide security for Soviet territory.

Ongoing Soviet attempts to stress the so-called problem of security on its southern frontiers — a point which Soviet spokesmen have repeatedly raised in relation to the Persian Gulf — must be understood in this context. The adoption of such a policy -- and in the event it is accepted by world circles -- would allow the Soviet Union to justify the presence of its naval forces in the Persian Gulf. In this way Soviet policy is not seen as a threat to the regional states or an element to increase tension, but as a legitimate defensive measure, a measure which every country is authorized to adopt to defend its borders.

The second invariable factor relates to the United States. In their actual measures and in their very private talks, the Soviets have stressed the point that they are ready to accept the Persian Gulf as part of Western, especially American, vital interests, because a great deal of the oil used by NATO countries is secured through this waterway. The life of the West depends on this energy.

With regard to this factor, in private meetings the Russian authorities have stated their acceptance of the United States' presence in the Persian Gulf as part of its plan to safeguard its vital interests.

These two invariable factors have been discussed in talks held between the Russian and U.S. authorities. In exchange for official recognition of this second factor, the Soviet Union expects the United States to recognize the first factor in favor of the Soviet Union. It seems that agreement on these two axes, which determine the principles of the interests of the two sides, has taken place between the White House and the Kremlin. The fact that nuclear warhead-carrying naval units of the United States are not [as heard] in the Persian Gulf could be part of these behind-the-scenes agreements. In addition, the American and Soviet authorities are engaged in ever-increasing cooperation regarding the problems of the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted] Despite their initial successes, the Soviets have realized that they must accept the fact that they must still wait for success in the region.

Cabinet Hears Report on Velayati's Oman Visit

LD191133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] The report of Foreign Minister Velayati's trip to Oman was submitted to the Cabinet today. During the session, his talks with Omani officials on the security of the Persian Gulf and on problems related to U.S. efforts to create tension in the region were examined.

The Cabinet also studied the various aspects pertaining to the 1987-88 export-import regulations. The Cabinet stressed the expansion of nonoil exports and the need to arrest inflationary trends through a project to fight high prices and profiteering. The necessary decisions in these spheres were adopted.

At this session, problems related to compensation for damages arising from floods in various regions of the country were also discussed. The government's policy was determined with regard to the need to finalize the status of plots of land situated in the flood areas and to provide help from the uniformed services to all flood victims throughout the country without discrimination.

In today's Cabinet, a proposal by the State Administration and Employment Organization was approved on increasing minimum retirement pay and increasing the minimum pay to survivors of civil servants up to the amount of 23,000 rials.

Heroin, Opium, Hashish Seized; 109 Arrested

LD191107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] A Central News Unit correspondent reports from Zahedan that Gendarmerie officers at the border outposts near Chah Bahar have seized 386 high quality and masterpiece silk carpets that smugglers were attempting to take out of the country.

During the last few days, members of the anti-narcotics squad of the Baluchestan va Sistan Province have seized 33 kg of heroin, 70 kg of opium, and 51 kg of hashish from the merchants of death. In this connection, 109 people were arrested. After being charged, they were handed over to the relevant provincial officials.

Tehran Commentary on Islamic Banking System

NC180957 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "Islamic Banking and Its Benefits in Islamic Iran"]

[Excerpts] Banks should consider revising their methods along Islamic lines. If, God forbid, usury continues in a country like ours, in its banks, in its commerce, or among the people, we cannot claim that our republic is an Islamic one. In light of the sacred Islamic laws' strong condemnation and strict prohibition of usury and usurers, the issue of eliminating the system of banks charging interest has been a focus of special attention since the culmination of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. [passage omitted]

On the eve of the triumph of the Islamic revolution, there were 36 banks in our country with 8,274 domestic and 86 foreign branches. Of these, only two were commercial banks with agricultural facilities. Following the victory of the Islamic revolution,

the nationalization of the banks, according to the bill of 17 Khordad 1979 [7 June], was the first step toward amending the country's banking system. [passage omitted]

The banking network of the country, with the exception of the Central Bank, was reduced from 36 to 10 banks. After the appointment of martyr Rajai'e to the prime ministry, concerted efforts began to eliminate the system of charging interest. After extensive measures, the government presented a plan in 1982 called the Law on Interest-Free Banking Operations. This plan was submitted to the Islamic Majlis, which approved and ratified it in Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] 1983. With the endorsement of the Council of Guardians, all banks would function according to the law on interest-free operations starting in 1984.

The new law stipulated that banks would carry out all transactions — credit and loan facilities — on the basis of Islamic tenets. These tenets, taken from Islamic jurisprudence, include 14 categories, such as speculation or limited partnership [modarabeh], profit-sharing, equal partnership, interest-free loans, and (?land contracting). Bank deposits were to be converted into two new forms of interest-free loans and investment. With the elimination of usury, the Islamic banking system enables people from all strata to participate actively in production schemes targeted for economic self-sufficiency in the country by using their deposits.

International news circles made spiteful predictions about the impracticality of an interest-free banking system, and it was alleged that the implementation of such a system would result in the collapse of the Iranian economy and withdrawal of assets from the banks. However, because of the Muslim Iranian people's adherence to Islamic laws and the efficiency of the new banking system, none of these gloomy forecasts materialized. On the contrary, the new system opened a fresh chapter in the economic and banking systems of the world. The people's response to the new system was such that less than a year after the implementation of the new law, the level of bank deposits soared remarkably. [passage omitted]

The Islamic banking system implemented in Iran has also elicited support from many international centers. Last year the IMF director general and administrative board officials disseminated a report on Islamic banking as a practical and acceptable international system. In an article published by the IMF last year, the Islamic banking system was hailed as more durable because it was interest-free and could absorb financial shocks better than traditional Western banking systems.

Almost 4 years have elapsed since the approval of the Islamic banking system in Iran. During this time the banking system has been operating and banks have been able to participate in the development and constructive activities of the country. They have used the people's assets in an optimum manner, keeping the wheels of the country's economy turning. [passage omitted] Increased participation of banks in our development projects is extremely important for the country's economic future, especially as the private sector is not attracted to such investments due to low interest rates. Banks should pay greater attention to production rather than to business affairs and place their facilities at the disposal of low-income groups in order to promote greater social justice. Credit facilities in the form of interest-free loans to workers and employees for housing are one remarkable feature of the system.

In conclusion, it is appropriate to mention that, as was stated by officials concerned, this is a transitional period for the new banking system. Hopefully, the present law will be further streamlined in the future. In any case, the people are hopeful that by better understanding the banking system and realizing their important role in publicizing this system, the country's banks can play a more effective and dynamic part in the country's economy, in harmony with the objectives of the Islamic revolution and government policy.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraq Warned of Imminent Attack

LD181655 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] In the wake of the increase in the Iraqi regime's attacks on industrial and labor units, as well as on the residential areas of our country, the War Information Headquarters has released a statement in which it declares: The Islamic Republic of Iran, in its policy of retaliation, will in the first instance bring the economic and military centers of Iraq under the fire of its Air Force and artillery. In this statement, the people of Iraq have been asked to evacuate nearby economic and military centers of Iraq as soon as possible.

Attacks on Iraqi Installations

NC190516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Following a warning by the War Information Headquarters regarding reaction to the Zionist Iraqi regime's mischief-mongering attacks on our economic and industrial installations, which martyred and wounded our compatriots, the Islamic fighters resumed retaliatory attacks this morning. Their artillery has shelled military and economic installations of the Zionist enemy in the vicinity of Al-Basrah, Zubayr, Abu al-Khasib, and the strategic Umm Qasr port.

According to IRNA, the headquarters forces of three branches of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced these attacks, adding: Important installations on the Umm al-Qasr jetty, the Al-Harithah power station, oil installations, training and tactical bases, and the 3d and 7th Corps Command buildings sustained considerable damage in this action. A number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded.

Communique No 2,932

LD181628 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants smashed two Iraqi counterassaults west of the Maymak operational theater Sunday night and early Monday, inflicting con-

siderable casualties and losses on the attacking enemy troops and forcing them to flee, said a military communique here Tuesday.

The 2932nd Joint Staff communique said that several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 20 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts, two munitions dumps and several tanks and trucks were destroyed in the southern fronts by Iranian artillery fire Monday.

The Iranian combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts yesterday, dealing effective blows on enemy troops.

Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment on Iraqi troops and disrupted their relocation activities in Sumar and areas between Maymak and Kani-Sheykh in the western fronts yesterday.

The movements of Iraqi tank and motorized units in Panjwin and Chazabeh were checked by Iranian artillery fire Monday, the communique concluded.

4 Iraqi Gunboats Sunk

LD181821 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 18, IRNA — Four Iraqi gunboats were targetted and sunk by coastal artillery fire of the Iranian combatants when they attempted to approach Khawr 'Abdallah waters at day-break today. All the Iraqi crew members went down along with the gunboats to the bottom of the Persian Gulf waters.

Meanwhile, coastal artillery fire of the Muslim forces shelled and set afire an Iraqi military vessel as it was sailing near the Iraqi port city of Umm Qasr today. According to latest reports the vessel is sinking in northern waters of the Persian Gulf.

Ziaul Haq on Afghanistan, India, Domestic Issues

PM181426 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 12 Aug 87 p 3

[Interview with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq by Alain Chevalerias and Helene da Costa; date and place not given]

[Text] *Le Quotidien*: Do you think that the Soviet threat to your country is growing?

Mohammad Ziaul Haq: Yes, I think so. Anyone with a knowledge of international affairs and the history of Soviet expansion will understand that if Afghanistan comes under Soviet influence, there will be a threat to Pakistan. This is obvious. So, in order to avert this threat, Pakistan is energetically joining the chorus of numerous other nations calling on the Soviets to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan. Afghanistan should be left neutral, independent, and pro-Soviet [as published].

Le Quotidien: Sir, given the present state of the Geneva negotiations, can you tell us whether you think that the Soviets are really prepared to leave Afghanistan or whether they are deceiving the world?

Mohammad Ziaul Haq: If we thought that the Soviets were deceiving us and if we doubted their intentions, our behavior would be unreasonable. Let us take them at their word. Mr Gorbachev has stated that Afghanistan is a festering wound (in the USSR'S side — *Le Quotidien de Paris* editor's note) and that he wants to withdraw from Afghanistan. If we accept that, we cannot lose, because there is a good chance that the Soviets will leave Afghanistan. If some measures can be taken to help the Soviets to save face and leave Afghanistan, they must be taken. That is why our tactics are to take the Soviets at their word. We accept that they want to leave Afghanistan, and we say that the Soviet Union ought to do so under UN protection in order to save face rather than under the terms of a unilateral [as published], international, or other agreement.

Le Quotidien: We have learned that the Soviet-Afghan forces have opened fire on your positions on the Afghan-Pakistani border several times. Do you intend to retaliate, and, if so, to what extent? Are you not worried about the danger of escalation and of a major conflict in the region?

Mohammad Ziaul Haq: There is some truth in both of the alternatives which you present. We do not want a direct confrontation with the Soviet forces for obvious reasons. However, the Pakistani Government is in a very difficult position, especially in the military sphere, because we are receiving blows from the Soviet Union. Pakistan would certainly like to retaliate, but only in favorable conditions. For instance, if the Soviets violate our airspace but do not carry out aggressive actions, we do not need to retaliate. When somebody attacks you without fearing the consequences, you must be able to take limited offensive action. This is why we are asking for some military equipment, such as AWACS and effective ground defense weapons. Thus, Pakistan will be able to respond to violations of airspace, and we have already challenged and defeated Soviet planes in one or two clashes. The Pakistani Army is very professional and would like to face the Soviets, but it is not adventurist. It would not be wise to start a confrontation with the Soviet Union on the Pakistani-Afghan border. But, if Pakistan had a favorable opportunity, we would like to face it in the air and on land.

Le Quotidien: Do you think there is any chance of better relations between India and Pakistan in the future?

Mohammad Ziaul Haq: It is possible. The last time I met with the Indian prime minister, I gave him two examples: that of Britain and France, and that of France and Germany. I said: If those countries which have often been at war, including a war which lasted 100 years, can now live in peace within the EC, why couldn't India and Pakistan do likewise? He agreed. We have opened the door for the immediate future, and Pakistan and India will be able to develop good-neighborly relations.

Le Quotidien: Pakistan is now facing a wave of terrorism. Who do you think is behind this terrorism?

Mohammad Ziaul Haq: We are in a very difficult situation. Terrorism is an international phenomenon, which you are facing in France and which India is experiencing on its territory, like many other countries. That is why I have said on more than one occasion to international organizations that peace-loving countries and the free world should combine their efforts to combat the terrorist threat, which is a threat to mankind. Knowing who is behind it is not so important. Terrorism in Pakistan has three causes.

The first is Islam. There is a real fear that Pakistan will become a fundamentalist state, although fundamentalism has nothing to do with Islam. It is a mistake to call certain people fundamentalists. But, according to the Western way of thinking, those who want to spread the spirit of Islam, those who have peaceful aims, are regarded as fundamentalists. We are trying to instill this Islamic spirit into the Pakistani people by a gradual and peaceful process. Many people do not like that, and do not want a Muslim Pakistan. We are paying the price for that.

We also have 3 million refugees on our territory. These 3 million refugees have arrived in the space of 7 years. This is difficult to imagine. Just imagine 3 million refugees on your land; there is no equivalent social problem. As time passes, and the peace process in Afghanistan is delayed, the Soviets strive to make life difficult in Pakistan. This is costing us dearly. But it does not worry us. We have no regrets and will continue to bear this burden.

We also have political problems inside the country. I will not say that this is the work of any particular party, but this hypothesis cannot be ruled out because political ambition sometimes reaches such a pitch that people forget human values. We are therefore facing the same phenomenon as many European and Asian countries. It is our duty to tackle this problem in international meetings, to find the causes and the remedies. We must examine the preventive measures which Britain, France, Indonesia, and Malaysia are taking and which we could take. That is why Pakistan is strengthening its domestic legislation. If those responsible are found and their guilt is established by a court, they must be punished in an exemplary way.

Le Quotidien: Do you think that the increase in the U.S. presence in the Gulf is a stabilizing factor or a destabilizing factor which could increase the superpowers' involvement?

Mohammad Ziaul Haq: Please do not think that I am trying to favor anybody. But, fundamentally, the balance of forces in the modern world is in the superpowers' hands — the Soviet Union on one side and the United States on the other. The Soviet Union has its allies and the United States has its allies. Europe has a very important role to play. If I said that Pakistan has always avoided anything which might increase rivalry or tension between the superpowers in our region and in the Gulf, which is our country's backyard, it would be a general statement. I would say that all those who stand to gain from seeing a balance maintained in the region are acting correctly. I would say that the U.S. presence is necessary to protect the Gulf against terrorist actions. Terrorism is not just bombs exploding in the streets of Pakistan. Terrorism is also the creation of conditions which hamper shipping. I think the time has come to act. I do not mean that we should support one superpower, like the United States, to enter into conflict with the Soviet Union, thus starting World War III. But I think that if no one takes the initiative, there will always be a problem. As long as a climate of uncertainty prevails and a balance is not maintained, we will have problems in the Gulf, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. That is why I feel that the United States is taking the right action, and this is what the world expects of a superpower which has an international responsibility to stabilize the situation.

Le Quotidien: Sir, you lifted martial law more than 1 year ago. Are you satisfied with the democratic process, or do you think it is necessary to take other measures? If so, what measures and when?

Mohammad Ziaul Haq: The establishment of democracy, both in Pakistan and in any developed democratic country, is a gradual process. Look at your own country, France, which has tested so many solutions so far. The first measure which we adopted — the lifting of martial law — led to the creation of a democratic government elected in an independent manner, as the people's representative and having full powers to make political decisions. This is working very well, and as an observer with a paternal eye, so to speak, I am happy to see that the institution is being established, even if we have problems which only time can reduce.

Le Quotidien: What are the next measures which you plan to take?

Mohammad Ziaul Haq: The weakness of our present system lies in the large number of political parties and of weak political parties. The next step which the government and all those who want democracy must take would consist of strengthening the system of political parties in the country. Why is this system weak? Because the parties have no roots. But I think that with a democratic spirit, a democratic constitution based on Islam — which is a democratic faith related to human constraints — and with a strong political structure within the parties, we will give Pakistan a healthy political system.

Le Quotidien: Does this mean that you envisage elections in the near future?

Mohammad Ziaul Haq: No, not at all. In this first hypothetical case, we do not envisage early elections. Indeed, in the parliamentary system followed by our government, elections are to be held after a 5-year period. However, it is up to the prime minister to decide when it is appropriate to hold them, in exactly the same way as Mrs Margaret Thatcher did. He must judge when elections should be held. He must ensure that they are held at the time the government thinks is best. The government will then win the elections. This is the only case in which early elections can be held.

Le Quotidien: What is the state of relations between Pakistan and France?

Mohammad Ziaul Haq: We were very happy to receive a French parliamentary delegation. I would like to add that France and Pakistan have excellent relations in all spheres — military, economic, and political. I have had the privilege of visiting your country several times. When he last visited Europe, Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo had the opportunity to meet with the French president and prime minister. I hope that the French parliamentary delegation's visit will lead to understanding and will encourage the development of relations between our two countries. A final word about something which most people in your own country do not know: I am talking about your fantastic contribution to those affected by the war in Afghanistan. From Pakistan, I have seen news of the Afghan problem spread throughout the free world, most often by French journalists. We are also very proud to say that we have received medical aid from French medical volunteers who have treated refugees and wounded people. Tell them how much we admire them.

Further Reportage on Grenade Attack in Parliament

Parliament Staffer Questioned

BK190233 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0229 GMT 19 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 19 (*Lanka Puwath*) — A member of the staff at the parliamentary complex at Sri Jayawardanapura was taken in for questioning over the attempt to assassinate Sri Lankan President Jayewardene yesterday, police told *Lanka Puwath*. The man was in charge of the keys to the committee room in which the government parliamentary group met.

Caller Claims Responsibility

BK190533 London BBC World Service in English
0015 GMT 19 Aug 87

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Sri Lankan Parliament has been shaken by an attempt on the life of President Jayewardene. The president has already blamed Sinhalese terrorists for the attack which killed one minister and seriously hurt several others, and this accusation seems to be borne out by a telephone call received by our Colombo correspondent (John Rettie):

[Begin (Rettie) recording] The caller identified himself as a spokesman for the Patriotic People's Movement, but refused to give his name and couldn't offer any proof of his identity. But he said the attack had been carried out in protest against what he called the betrayal of the Sinhalese people by the government in signing the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord last month. He specifically blamed President Jayewardene for betraying what he called the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the country. This type of action would continue, the caller said, until the peace accord had been abrogated and the Indian peacekeeping force sent back home. In a nationwide radio broadcast, President Jayewardene himself blamed what he called southern terrorists for the attack. He said the blood on his clothes would remain as the permanent memento of yet another attempt to destroy parliamentary democracy. The president himself was unhurt when an attacker fired two shots at him when he was about to address a meeting of government party members of parliament in a parliamentary committee room. One shot hit a clerk, who is critically ill. Two hand grenades, which were then thrown into the room, also missed the president, but injured several ministers and MP's, one of whom has since died. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Cabinet Meets To Discuss Accord

BK191250 London BBC World Service in English
1200 GMT 19 Aug 87

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka, who yesterday escaped an assassination attempt in Parliament, today presided over a cabinet meeting at which the agreement between India and Sri Lanka to end the ethnic conflict on the island was discussed. Indian and Sri Lankan officials have also been meeting to discuss the devolution of power in the Tamil areas in the north and the east of the country as proposed in the peace accord. (John Rettie) reports from Colombo:

[Begin (Rettie) recording] No details were revealed about the cabinet discussions, but it is understood that the government stressed its determination not to be diverted from the peace agreement by the attempt on the president's life. In fact, it demonstrated its resolve by going ahead with the scheduled talks on the details of how the proposed provincial councils wil work in Tamil areas. The Indian delegation of Foreign Ministry and constitutional experts spent the morning with the Sri Lankan team which included Mr Hector Jayewardene, the president's brother and a recognized legal expert on the subject. Leaders of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front who have come to Colombo from their exile in Madras may also be consulted.

Meanwhile, police investigating the asassination attempt say they have taken in for further questioning a member of the parliamentary staff who is in charge of the key to the committee room where the attack was carried out. No arrests or charges have yet been made, although every member of the staff has been interrogated. But the suspicion remains strong that the assailants believed to be from an extremist Sinhalese organization have infiltrated the staff of the parliamentary building.

The ministers and MP's severely wounded in the attack are understood to be still gravely ill but stable after their operations. They were visited in the hospital by President Jayewardene who escaped unscathed and by the prime minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, who was injured in the leg, although not seriously. [end recording]

Police Detain 5 Persons

BK191556 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the condition of the ministers and members of Parliament injured in yesterday's grenade attack on Parliament is reported to be stable. An official spokesman said in Colombo that the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, who was seriously injured, is now conscious following a surgery.

Our Colombo correspondent Plabon Majumder reports that five persons have been detained by the police so far in connection with the attack on the Sri Lankan president and his cabinet ministers.

No details are available officially about the identity of the arrested persons, but they are reported to be among the watch and ward staff of the Parliament.

Meanwhile, the Indian delegation led by the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, had discussions today with a Sri Lankan delegation on the residual issues about the proposed provincial council [in the north and the east].